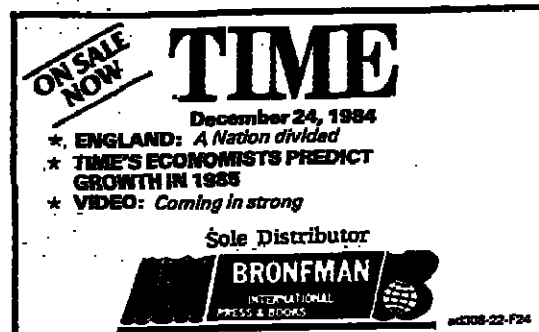




THE JERUSALEM POST

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1.15 a.m.



Cabinet crisis may deepen over Lebanon

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The coalition crisis over Shas, even if it is eventually resolved, may prove a prelude to a much more serious standoff between Labour and Likud—over policy in Lebanon.

Labour sources spoke yesterday of a "hardening" of the Likud's position, while in the Likud there is open dissatisfaction over Premier Peres's public advocacy this week of a unilateral withdrawal from all of South Lebanon if the talks with the Lebanese collapse.

Israeli and Lebanese officers are to meet once again in Nakoura this morning, for the last session of their talks before the Christmas recess.

Israeli officials expect no more progress to be made this time than at a dozen previous meetings, and they assert solemnly that Israel will use the recess period to "reassess its policy" towards the talks and towards its policy in Lebanon.

The widely made prediction in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv yesterday was that today's round would in fact be the last, unless there is a surprise breakthrough, or unless U.S. envoy Richard Murphy can report real progress in his shuttling between Jerusalem, Damascus and Beirut.

The government therefore, and initially this means the 10-man "inner cabinet," will have to grapple in the next two or three weeks with the various unilateral redeployment options submitted by military and civilian planners.

One key official observed ruefully yesterday that "there can be no good choice: the choices are between bad and worse." A partial pullback would leave some soldiers still stuck in the Lebanese morass, with all its dangers and frustrations. A total pullback would inevitably expose

Galilee to a measure of risk. In an interview published on Tuesday and again in a conversation with "Parents against Silence," Peres has openly espoused the full-withdrawal option. "I am in favour of the full withdrawal and taking the risk," the premier declared. But he still wants to strengthen and support the mainly Christian South Lebanese Army under Gen. Antoine Lahad and to institute whatever other security arrangements are attainable.

Sources close to Peres and others close to Defence Minister Rabin all predict that the two men will come to the crucial decision-making sessions of the "inner cabinet" united.

Rabin, the sources said, is perhaps more cautious and less sweeping than Peres in his approach to the details of the projected unilateral withdrawal.

But once the defence minister is convinced that the negotiations have led nowhere and the time has come for unilateral moves, he too will favour a full withdrawal, and will coordinate with the prime minister over "tactical details."

The other three Labour Alignment men on the "inner cabinet," Yitzhak Navon, Ezer Weizman and Haim Bar-Lev, will doubtless fall in behind the two top ministers.

On the Likud side, however, opposition to a total withdrawal in the absence of a security agreement has always been present beneath the surface, and now seems to be welling up. Vice Premier Shamir gave voice to it on television last night, when he warned against withdrawal "without adequate security provisions" and insisted that Israel must stand firm until it attains these provisions.

Shamir added that he had discussed the matter with the premier, and (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)



Tehiya MK Geula Cohen joins Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel yesterday in offering an expression of solidarity to Tanya Edelstein in the Soviet Union. Edelstein's husband Yuli, a Hebrew teacher, was sentenced yesterday to three years in a work camp for "drug possession." (Isaac Harari)

U.S. wants 'credible' Israel economic policy

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Senior U.S. and Israeli officials yesterday opened a second round of separate military and economic talks amid growing indications of American disappointment in the unfolding of the Israeli economic recovery programme.

The first round of talks took place last month, also in Washington.

At the centre of the discussion was the Reagan administration's foreign aid package for Israel which must be submitted to Congress next month. Publicly U.S. and Israeli officials yesterday insisted that no final aid decision had been made.

But privately they agreed that the final sum is likely to be well below that sought by Israel. Israel is asking for \$4.1 billion in civilian and military aid for the 1986-87, and an extra \$800m. for 1985.

At a news conference, Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam said the administration is waiting to see whether Israel could come up with a "serious and credible" policy aimed at easing the economic crisis. How that policy is "announced and implemented" would affect the administration's final decision, he said.

"To the extent that this is a credible programme," he said, "the numbers may not have to be so large."

He went on to note that if the programme were not credible, even greater amounts of U.S. financial assistance would not be effective in coming to grips with the economic situation in Israel.

Like other administration officials, Dam stressed the mounting pressure to freeze federal spending across the board including foreign aid.

Avi Temkin adds from Jerusalem: Israel is making every effort to obviate future requests for additional civilian aid from the U.S. Finance Minister Moda'i yesterday told the U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Jerusalem.

Lewis told Moda'i that the U.S. has every intention of continuing to help Israel. He said the U.S. is aware of Israel's military needs and economic problems. But, he added, the U.S. also has budgetary difficulties of its own, and its defence budget is being cut. He stressed that unless the Israel government takes meaningful economic steps, no outside aid can help it.

2 top U.S. officials reiterate support for Reagan initiative

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam yesterday defended President Reagan's 1982 Middle East peace initiative, suggesting that the U.S. is still planning to revive it as soon as realistically possible.

At separate news conferences, both officials stressed the importance of moving ahead with the

broader Arab-Israeli peace process along the lines advanced in the Reagan Plan.

Weinberger, after restating U.S. support for Israel's economic and military strength, insisted that "the only salvation" for Israel's problems in the long run "and for the whole region" is the Reagan peace initiative.

The defence secretary said there had been no change in U.S. policy (Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Shas gets Interior, NRP Religious Affairs Late night agreement saves the coalition

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The government crisis sparked by Shas's withdrawal from the coalition was resolved last night in a race against the clock when representatives of the Labour Party, the Likud, the National Religious Party and Shas came to an agreement on the division of the interior and religious affairs portfolios between Shas and the NRP.

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz of Shas will be Interior Minister, after all, and NRP leader Yosef Burg will get the Religious Affairs portfolio, as his party decided against its own will. The redeeming compromise formula stipulates that 60 per cent of the religious councils budget will be channelled through the Interior Ministry and 40 per cent through Religious Affairs. This is in fact the formula that had been proposed to the NRP earlier yesterday.

At the successful conclusion of last night's meeting, both Deputy Prime Ministers—Labour's Yitzhak Navon and the Likud's David Levy—congratulated each other. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, who had been actively involved in the negotiations, said late last night there were no winners and no losers from this first major coalition crisis of the national unity government.

The four parties had met for several hours late last night in Education Minister Navon's office.

The meeting was held under the shadow of the Likud's threat to convene its ministers this morning and decide whether to walk out of the coalition, unless some compromise was reached last night.

Vice Premier Shamir said last night that the Likud would not remain in the government unless the Shas problem was solved. He told Israel Television's Moked interview programme that the Likud's decision would be taken today.

Shamir said that Prime Minister Peres could solve the problem immediately by agreeing to his proposal to give Shas and the NRP one ministry each. He said he did not know why Peres had not done this, but assumed that the Alignment had made promises to the NRP, Shas and the NRP would accept a joint Alignment-Likud decision, said Shamir.

The vice premier said that the national unity government is vital for the nation and he wants it to continue, but he said it is also "delicate and fragile" and based on agreements which have to be kept scrupulously.

He suggested that "certain ministers"—he refused to say they were from the Alignment—would be pleased to see the Likud leave the government so that Israel could get out of Lebanon unconditionally, withdraw from Judea and Samaria and give up Taba at once.

During the day, Likud ministers

charged Peres with bringing about the crisis.

"Labour ministers, on the other hand," suggested, "the Likud would try to sabotage the government's attempt. Labour sources said they suspected that Deputy Prime Minister David Levy would wreck any settlement if he participated in the negotiations, as a means of showing his strength for the approaching Knesset elections and then against Shamir and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon in the struggle for party leadership."

Labour Knesset Member Avraham Katz-Oz accused the Likud of using the Shas-NRP dispute to evade responsibility for the economic crisis and Israel's presence in Lebanon—two predicaments which the Likud government created and which the national unity government was formed to handle.

"If Levy had agreed to appoint a Shas deputy minister in the Housing Ministry, as the Likud had promised, the whole dispute would have been solved. But Levy isn't interested in a real solution, only in his personal status in the Likud. All his efforts are concentrated on personal power struggles. This is the Likud's way of ducking responsibility for the economic crisis and our stay in Lebanon," Katz-Oz said.

Earlier yesterday, NRP leaders Rafael Ben-Natan and Ze'evun Hammer agreed with Shahal on a compromise on the religious council's budgets.

Likud vents fury at Alignment over crisis

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

The Likud Knesset faction met yesterday and gave the Likud ministers, who are to meet today, full authority to decide what moves the party should make following Shas's exit from the national unity coalition.

The faction session was intended as a demonstration of firmness on the Likud's part in order to force the Alignment to twist the National Religious Party's arm. The Likud said it had pressured Shas successfully to be flexible, whereas the Alignment had been "mollycoddling" the NRP.

Every word said at the Likud faction was leaked to the media, an almost unprecedented move.

Vice Premier Shamir told the MKs: "We entered this coalition in order not to give up Judea and Samaria and not to run away from Lebanon unconditionally," and declared: "If our agreement regarding Shas and the NRP is observed, other, more vital agreements will not be violated in times to come."

Shamir said that some Alignment ministers are only waiting for the Likud to quit the government. "One of them would like to be foreign minister and another would like to be finance minister," he said.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said that to his regret the NRP appears to be wrapping the Alignment around its little finger. To get both Shas and the NRP to agree on the draft proposal to carve up the functions of the Interior and Religious Affairs Ministries between them, he said, an arrangement had been worked out which in fact would cost the taxpayer more than the previous arrangement in terms of the budgets for the religious councils.

"It amounts to hundreds of billions of shekels more," Nissim said. Nissim said: "For the past seven years the Likud succeeded in maintaining its credibility. Today it refuses to allow its credibility to be impaired."

Benny Shalita (Liberals) proposed: "Let the Likud take the Interior Ministry. Moshe Katav (now

Labour Minister) has the right experience."

Ehud Olmert (La'am) said: "We expect our Likud faction leaders to consult with the three MKs of the La'am wing before decisions are taken, so that we don't have to rely on the radio for our information."

Pihas Goldstein (Liberals) argued: "Perhaps the crisis would not have erupted had the Likud not stalled on the idea of giving Shas a deputy minister."

David Levy (Herut) retorted: "That's untrue!"

Fesch Grupper (Liberals): "The Alignment is angling to form a narrow-based coalition on the assumption that Peres is now popular and has improved his image."

Dan Meridor: "If we don't quit in the wake of Shas, then we're finished with the historic move made by Menachem Begin in 1977, when he teamed up with the religious parties."

Eliahu Ben-Elissar (Herut): "We should not have been in such a hurry to end our partnership with the National Religious Party."

Fighting explodes in Shouf amid fear of Israeli pullout

BEIRUT (Reuters). — Shells burst near the Presidential Palace above Beirut yesterday just before U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived for talks with Lebanese leaders, palace sources said.

Fighting flared between the army and Druse militiamen in the nearby Shouf Mountains shortly after the cabinet failed to give the go-ahead for plans to move the army south ready to take over if Israeli troops withdrew.

Police said one Lebanese Army soldier was killed and two others were wounded by rocket-propelled grenades and sniper-fire between government troops at the mountain-top town of Souk Al-Gharb and Druse gunners in nearby villages in the hills overlooking Beirut.

They said a few shells hit residential neighbourhoods in Christian East Beirut during the morning, but no casualties were reported.

Druse and Christian militias also clashed in the Kharoub province bordering Israel's occupation zone in Southern Lebanon. The state radio said the Israeli army sent a patrol of two tanks and 13 armoured personnel carriers into the area as the exchanges erupted.

Murphy, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, discussed the stalled talks on an Israeli withdrawal in a meeting with Lebanese President Amin Jemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karamah.

Israel earlier warned it is considering pulling out of the talks at the border village of Nakoura.

But Murphy, who arrived here earlier from Damascus, told reporters Washington wants the negotiations to go on. "We support the continuation of these talks as the best forum to find agreed-on, practical arrangements to achieve the goal of restoring full sovereignty to Lebanon," he said.

He said he had told Jemayel and Karamah of the impressions he gained in his recent visits to Israel and Damascus.

Karamah told reporters the U.S. is trying to bring the two sides together. But he repeated Lebanon's demand for a total and unconditional Israeli pull-out, saying "we cannot accept guaranteeing the security of north Israel or serving as a policeman."

Karamah said after yesterday's meeting of the National Unity (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Steinberg Committee recommends:

Tax burden should be eased by up to 15%

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The tax burden on individuals should be eased considerably, the Law on Taxation under Inflationary Conditions should be abolished and, from fiscal 1986, tax payments and bookkeeping systems should be linked to some stable measure or currency.

The Law on Taxation under Inflationary Condition regulates tax payments from companies and the self-employed.

These are three of the main recommendations of the Steinberg Committee, the body appointed some months ago to examine the income-tax system.

The committee was appointed by former finance minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad after strong public criticism of the tax regulations.

The final report will be presented at the end of February.

The committee has presented its interim report to Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i. It states that inflation during the last few years has pushed taxpayers into higher levels of tax burden, as much as 25-35 per cent in the marginal tax brackets.

The committee recommends that the average tax burden should be eased by 15 per cent in fiscal 1985. Such a measure should be implemented only if the tax base is broadened so as to prevent a drop in tax revenue by some \$500 million.

The committee also states that the level of taxation is "astounding." It

adds that "it is simply impossible to understand how the country's residents can make a living, if they respect the tax regulations."

The committee says that a large number of citizens apparently get legal exemptions, another group evades tax payments, and a third group, mainly wage earners, carries a very heavy tax burden.

Regarding the tax on corporations and the self-employed, the committee proposes not prolonging the Law

on Taxation under Inflation after the end of fiscal year. Instead, the committee says, the tax system, including incomes, expenditures and profits, should be linked to a stable currency, such as the dollar or a "stable shekel."

According to Committee Chairman Uzi Steinberg, since such steps will require changing bookkeeping systems, the committee proposes waiting until fiscal year 1986 to implement.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

ON THE ECONOMY ROAD (II)

Kibbutz ready to ride out crisis

Winter at Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael this year means more than flocks of migrating flamingoes and swans hovering over fish ponds between the kibbutz and the sea. Budget cuts also came this year.

But the budget cutting does not mean that the menu will change in the dining hall serving the kibbutz's 550 members, or that fewer members of the kibbutz will travel abroad this year. As members explained to The Jerusalem Post, the kibbutz is "too well organized for that."

Instead, the cuts will be in development, and even there, in deciding to build a new production floor for Plasson, the kibbutz's plastics factory, or to build housing for members coming of age, cuts will be at the fringes, and will probably not exceed

In the second in a series of articles on how Israelis are coping with the economic situation, Jerusalem Post reporter ROBERT ROSENBERG takes a look at a kibbutz.

10 per cent of the entire development budget.

"We already have colour television — as if that would improve the garbage you see on it," said brawny, 60-year-old kibbutz founder and philosopher Yossi Cohen as he worked in the factory packing irrigation pipe joints. "And we won't cut in the future," he added, "even if the government does." Colour TV arrived at Ma'agan Michael this past summer.

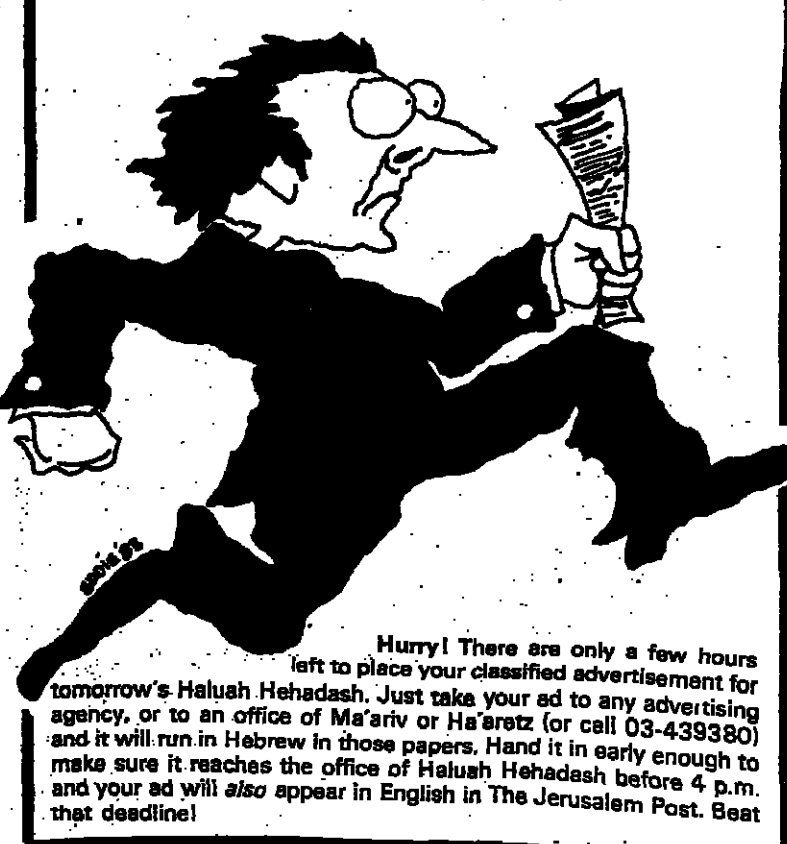
Ma'agan Michael

At a meeting this week in Plasson's spare, sunlit meeting room, the kibbutz secretariat asked the factory management to cut \$200,000 from a proposed \$2.5 million development budget in the coming year. Cohen wasn't at the meeting, but what he said about the future, bluntly, others said in more business-like terms.

Plasson is to Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael and its budget cutters what the Defence Ministry has been to the government. Some two-thirds of the kibbutz's revenue comes from Plasson, which last year did \$14 million business in mostly exported agricultural supplies. As the hands of the clock went around four times above the blackboard, and the discussion covered everything from why the

(Continued on Page 6)

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Hurry! There are only a few hours left to place your classified advertisement for tomorrow's Hahaluah Hehadash. Just take your ad to any advertising agency, or to an office of Ma'ariv or Ha'aretz (or call 03-439380) and it will run in Hebrew in those papers. Hand it in early enough to make sure it reaches the office of Hahaluah Hehadash before 4 p.m. and your ad will also appear in English in The Jerusalem Post. Beat that deadline!

JPY/ciol/SD

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	19.12.84	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
BRUSSELS	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
BUEENOS AIRES	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
CHICAGO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
COPENHAGEN	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
FRANKFURT	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
GENEVA	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
HELSINKI	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
HONG KONG	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
JOHANNESBURG	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
LISBON	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
LONDON	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
MADRID	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
MONTREAL	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
NEW YORK	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
OSLO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
PARIS	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
RIO DE JANEIRO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
SAO PAULO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
STOCKHOLM	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
TOKYO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
TORONTO	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		
ZURICH	11 24 7 46	Cloudy		

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

Jerusalem	Humidity	Yesterday's	Today's
Golan	32	4-14	16
Nahariya	32	4-14	16
Safed	57	5-9	10
Haifa Port	48	10-17	8
Tiberias	43	7-19	20
Nazareth	49	4-18	20
Afula	40	6-16	16
Shomron	37	8-22	22
Tel Aviv	46	5-22	23
B-G Airport	44	4-20	22
Jericho	40	4-19	20
Gaza	30	9-20	21
Beersheva	37	9-20	21
Eilat	30	11-23	24

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Rabbi Shai Shacknai memorial prize was awarded this week to Professor Frank Austen of Harvard University for his outstanding work in immunology and allergic reactions.

The Rotary Club is to hold a family Hanukkah party at the Tel Aviv Hilton at 8 p.m. tonight.

ARRIVALS

Gerard Daniel, President, World Union for Progressive Judaism, and Ruth Daniel, Financial Secretary of the WUPJ, for meetings with the leadership of the Israel Movement of the World Union.

Iranian Jewish leader mourned in Jerusalem

Dr. Habib Levy, a former leader of Iranian Jewry, was buried on December 16 in Har Hamenuhot cemetery in Jerusalem. He died two days earlier in Los Angeles. In keeping with his wish, Levy's grave is near that of his friend, president Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

Jerusalem boy killed in road accident

Shimon Hillel, 10, was hit by a car while crossing Rehov Shmuel Hana-vi in Jerusalem yesterday and died while being taken to Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus. In the evening, several hundred residents demonstrated at the site of the accident and demanded that traffic conditions in the neighbourhood be improved.

MKs asks court to rule on rabbi's activities

MK Yair Tzaban (Mapam) yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to order the minister for religious affairs and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to explain why the political and party activities of the rabbi are not illegal and inappropriate to his position as a religious judge.

Prime Minister Peres is holding the religious affairs portfolio until another minister is appointed.

Yosef is a member of the Council of Sages that advises the Shas Party. Tzaban also asked why the minister for religious affairs should not use his authority in the case of Yosef. In his petition to the court, Tzaban claimed that Yosef's activities violate the civil service law which prohibits religious judges from being members of the executive of a political party or of a political organization.

Tzaban also claims that Yosef's intervention in politics contravenes the religious judges law. The principle of the separation of authorities and independence of the judiciary requires that religious judges and judges in the civil court not involve themselves in politics. (Itim)

HOME NEWS

Kessar blasts cabinet for 'fiddling'

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar yesterday charged the government with fiddling with Shas while the economy burns.

Kessar, an Alignment MK, was speaking in the Knesset debate on the Stabilization of the Economy Bill, which constitutes the legal basis for the economic package deal signed November 5.

Kessar's speech was so opposed to the bill that after he spoke, Geula Cohen (Tehiya) asked him whether he would vote against the bill. He said no.

The bill was presented by Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amora'i, who said that in the seven weeks the deal has been in effect, it has succeeded in stopping the inflationary spiral. It had also "broken the inertia" regarding the price of labour and capital, he said.

Amora'i did not use the word "dollarization," but he said that setting a fixed rate of exchange between the shekel and any foreign currency as a basis for linkage would necessarily boost unemployment.

Such a rigid system, he said, would deprive the economy of all the ordinary instruments of regulation, leaving unemployment as the only possible regulating channel.

Amora'i said that the package deal had given the economy the

breathing spell that was needed to set it on a new course. If, in addition to the steps already taken, the budget is cut, Amora'i said, "and I hope with all my heart that it will be," there were prospects for curing the ills of the economy and putting it on the road to growth.

The package deal could be extended for another three months with practically no changes, Kessar said. But the government is rocking the boat. Did it expect the public to remain calm when it hears daily statements from the Treasury about the need to reduce subsidies and raise prices? he asked.

Instead of undermining the package deal, said Kessar, the government is supposed to be making cuts in the state budget, but there it is only "talk, talk, talk."

Kessar described as "shameful" the proposal of Finance Minister Moda'i to add 4 per cent to the advance income-tax payments of the self-employed to equalize the burden of the package deal. Since the wage-earners had given up 15 per cent of their pay, this was a bad joke, he said.

Demanding fair tax collection, Kessar quoted the deputy income-tax commissioner in Tel Aviv as telling the Steinberg commission on tax reform that, on the average, the self-employed report only 40 per

cent of their income. Yitzhak Seyger (Likud-Liberals) protested: "That's incitement against the self-employed!"

Earlier, Seyger, who spoke before Kessar, during the debate said it was "a vicious libel" to say that the self-employed are tax-evaders. He said the Histadrut enterprise constitute a quarter of the total but pay only 10 per cent in taxes.

As for the package deal, Seyger said, the self-employed, ostensibly represented on the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations, when the package deal was worked out, were in fact, not represented by anybody. And they were bearing the main load of the deal, he asserted.

Chaika Grossman (Mapam) said that the government has wasted the breathing spell provided by the package deal. There is still no overall economic programme with clear priorities regarding budget cuts, she said.

Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement) said that the government is asking the Knesset to pass a bill that is no longer relevant. Instead of presenting bold proposals for rejuvenating the country economically, socially and politically.

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee by the votes of the coalition factions, with Mapam abstaining.

NII benefits are updated—for one month

By ILAN CHAIM
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee yesterday approved a one-month updating of National Insurance Institute benefits for the elderly, widows and disabled, according to the new system of calculating benefits endorsed by the cabinet on Sunday.

The committee decision came in time for the NII computer to be programmed to pay the updated stipends this month. These payments — the sole income for some 230,000 people — will be fully linked to November's 19.5 per cent increase in the cost of living index. Some

235,000 other beneficiaries, whose NII stipends constitute part of their incomes, will get 10.5 per cent.

The committee's approval was given for only one month, because the government intends to submit a bill to the Knesset next week designed to cover updating of benefits for one year. Once the bill is read in the House, it will go to the committee for further deliberation.

NII director-general Nissim Baruch appeared before the committee yesterday. He told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that: "The total CPI linkage means that beneficiaries will receive no less than 25 per cent of the updated average national

wage."

In addition to briefing the committee on the NII benefits, Baruch surveyed the institute's other activities, focusing on what he termed the "clear and conspicuous growth" in the number of persons receiving unemployment payments.

About 180,000 persons will have received unemployment payments at some point by the end of the fiscal year, Baruch told the panel, representing a growth of about 50 per cent over the previous year. About 22,000 persons will be getting payments each month by the end of the fiscal year, compared to some 13,500 at the end of fiscal 1983/84.

Terrorists use IDF arms for attacks inside Israel

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Arab terrorists operating in Israel use "a considerable amount" of IDF weapons which they obtain through the underworld, and the IDF grenade used to attack the Dan bus here on Sunday was just one example, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

There has been a considerable increase in Fatah attempts to attack Israel this past year — reaching the level of 1980-81 — but the enemy is hampered because its bases are distant and Israel's preventive measures are effective.

Nevertheless, terrorists have succeeded in launching 349 attacks in Israel since January 1, killing five Jews and wounding 108.

This figure, however, does not include most stone-throwings in the West Bank or the murder of Hadass Kedmi because it is not yet known if Kedmi was murdered by terrorists.

In Lebanon there were, on average, close to three attacks a day, or, as of Monday, 892 attacks in which 28 Israelis were killed and 275 were wounded.

Syrian-backed terrorist organizations have devoted 90 per cent of their efforts to attacking Israeli

targets in Lebanon. But the Fatah stepped up its efforts half a year ago in anticipation of the Palestine National Council, which had repeatedly postponed its meetings. Finally, when it did meet last month in Amman, attempted attacks by the Fatah reached their peak.

Fatah operations personnel planned kidnappings, landings by sea and airborne attacks. In some instances Israeli security forces found signs of sophistication and daring, which have been influenced by the war in Lebanon. Israeli authorities apprehended larger quantities of explosives than before, sometimes as much as 10 kilograms.

Following the achievement of closer relations between the PLO and Jordan, the Palestinian organization opened an office in Amman and some key operations personnel spend considerable time there. But the headquarters are believed here to be mainly for political and intelligence-gathering purposes, and the Jordanians realize they must curtail the Palestinians.

Defence Minister Rabin's warnings to Jordan not to permit attacks from its territory may have been designed to help King Hussein in his attempts to rein in the Palestinians.

Flap over new book on Lebanon war

Jerusalem Post Reporter

U.S. military historian Richard Gabriel reiterated to *The Jerusalem Post* correspondent in Washington yesterday that, contrary to a report on Israel TV, he had never agreed to show the notes or manuscript of his recently published book, *Operation Peace for Galilee*.

Israel TV's Mabat news programme yesterday evening reported that defence officials were dismayed that Gabriel's book had appeared in uncensored form. Some sources said that the book had been submitted to the censor, but an uncensored version of the book nevertheless had been published.

In his book, which was reviewed in *The Jerusalem Post* on December 7, Gabriel insists that he won the censor's agreement before coming to

Israel that neither his notes nor his final manuscript would have to be submitted for official scrutiny.

MK Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) was reported by Israel TV last night as saying Gabriel's book included detailed classified information on such IDF weapons systems as the Merkava tank and drone aircraft, and that these revelations had done "irreparable damage to the IDF."

Gabriel, a reserve officer in the U.S. army, has lectured to the Israel defence establishment on several occasions. His book is generally laudatory about the IDF's performance in the Lebanon war.

Military sources told *The Post* last night that the IDF is checking all the circumstances surrounding publication of the book.

SHOUF BATTLE

(Continued from Page One)

Cabinet, which was boycotted by Druse leader Walid Jumblatt, that the army deployment would in principle go ahead after talks with a Syrian military mission.

In Jerusalem, a senior official said earlier Israel might not return to the Nakoura talks after they recess for Christmas today. The talks have stalled over who should take charge of security in the south after the Israelis leave.

Prime Minister Peres has threatened a unilateral pullout, raising the spectre of a bloody scramble between rival militias to fill the vacuum.

In Amman, meanwhile, a U.S. Embassy official yesterday denied a Kuwaiti newspaper report that Murphy had met with a Palestinian personality during his recent visit.

The official said the only people Murphy met were King Hussein, five other Jordanian government officials and six U.S. Embassy diplomats.

Murphy was in Amman Sunday and Monday in the course of his current Middle East tour that took him also to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt to discuss an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon and the possibility of an overall Arab-Israeli settlement.

The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* said in a dispatch from Amman on Tuesday that Murphy had met with a Palestinian personality, whom the paper described as close to Yasser Arafat's PLO.

The report said the unnamed Palestinian conveyed to Murphy the PLO policy on peace efforts and "the PLO keenness to have a dialogue with the U.S."



Citizens Rights Movement MKs (from right) Mordechai Bar-On, Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni yesterday confront Rabbi Moshe Levinger outside the Dehaishe refugee camp a day before the planned Gush Emunim march from Dehaishe to Cremisan, the site of the murder several weeks ago of two young Israelis. (Isaac Harari)

'Time': Kahan Commission kept silent

By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK. — *Time* magazine's managing editor said today he believes that the Kahan Commission knew that Ariel Sharon talked about revenge with the Jemayel family at Bikfaya the day before the Sabra and Shatila massacre, but decided not to include that in the public part of its report.

Replying to questions in the Sharon vs. *Time* libel trial, Ray Cave said that he based his belief on reports from *Time* correspondents in Lebanon and Israel, including David Halevy. Cave admitted that he never tried to check Halevy's story on the massacre because, "it is not my duty to do the checking. That is not the way the *Time* system works. We employ more than 60 people to check... and check more carefully than any other publications in the world."

Cave was a smooth and articulate witness who seemed less willing than his predecessor on the witness stand, chief of correspondents Richard

Duncan, to apologize for mistakes *Time* may have made in the past. In contrast to Duncan, who said that he believed that a story *Time* ran in 1979 on the health of Menachem Begin was wrong, Cave said he still believes the story was correct, but conceded that *Time* had not proved that it was true.

Pressed by Sharon's defence attorney as to whether *Time* had been "embarrassed" by having to print a partial retraction on the incident, Cave said, "I would not use the word embarrassed... the situation was not very pleasant. I regret it happened."

Also in contrast to Duncan, Cave said he saw nothing wrong with the fact that David Halevy served as an unpaid advisor to Shimon Peres in 1977, at a time when Halevy had recently been hired as a *Time* correspondent.

Cave noted that he himself had advised Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart during the primary campaign, and said that this in no way impinged on the ability of *Time* to cover the Hart campaign

objectively. Cave said he would object only if a *Time* correspondent took a paid position with a political figure.

Cave also testified that he saw "no connection" between *Time*'s report in "The verdict is guilty" that it had learned that Sharon had ordered the Phalange into the Palestinian camps and its statement in the same paragraph that Sharon and the Jemayels discussed revenge.

The editor also stressed that by reporting that Sharon and the Jemayels discussed revenge, *Time* was not implying that Sharon knew the Phalange would carry out a massacre, since revenge would mean "killing only one man" in retribution for the assassination of Bashir Jemayel.

Meanwhile, Sharon reversed an earlier statement and said that he will arrive in Israel tonight — about a day earlier than planned. Sharon said he plans to return to New York after the holiday break on January 2, at which time he will take the witness stand again.

LEBANON

(Continued from Page One)

Peres himself had subscribed to this position.

This position, however, is vague enough to encompass divergent interpretations, and there is no doubt that those of Shamir — and more especially those of Ariel Sharon — diverge drastically from the total withdrawal scenario advocated by Peres.

Moshe Arens, too, another Likud member of the "inner cabinet," is believed to favour a pullback from Sidon and some other areas, rather than a wholesale pullout. And Labour sources said yesterday that any hopes which had been pinned on David Levy now seemed vain, in view of the hard line he had adopted at recent ministerial consultations.

This leaves the fifth Likud man on the panel, Finance Minister Moda'i,

whose vote could swing the verdict for Peres. But there is no certainty at all in Labour circles that Moda'i would indeed break ranks, especially if the discussion in the "inner cabinet" became a clear confrontation between the two parties.

Some political observers claim to discern a link between the two crises — the one over a peripheral issue (religious services) involving peripheral parties, and the possibly imminent crisis over Lebanon which would pit Labour and Likud directly against each other.

They say that the signs of a hardening of the Likud's stand on Lebanon may reflect a feeling in that party that if Likud is to secede, it should do so over a major issue of policy, and not over a minor issue of political interests which many voters would despise.

INITIATIVE

(Continued from Page One)

toward Israel, especially in connection with Israel's need to maintain a qualitative military edge over any combination of Arab states.

He denied that the administration has any intention of trying to impose the plan on the parties directly concerned and repeatedly called for direct, face-to-face Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Dam strongly rejected the Soviet Union's call for an international peace conference in the region.

Regarding a revived U.S. peace effort in the region, Dam said that it would probably have to be preceded by some resolution of the situation in South Lebanon.

He said the U.S. fully supports Israel's position that its withdrawal from Lebanon should be accompanied by firm security arrangements along Israel's northern border.

"The Israeli government is going to have to be prepared to negotiate about peace," Dam said in response to another question.

Dam confirmed that the State Department has recommended that U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Thomas Pickering be nominated the next ambassador to Israel, succeeding Samuel Lewis.

MINE DISASTER. — The Taiwanese government has ordered 15 coal mines closed following the mine explosion that killed at least 92 people early this month, a mine official reported yesterday.

FINE. — The Tel Aviv traffic court yesterday fined the owners of Pardes, Inc., with a fleet of some 45 vehicles, IS1 million for failing to employ a traffic-safety officer from 1976 to 1983.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear mother

SARAH EZEKIEL

(formerly of Bombay, India)

The funeral will be held at Segulla Cemetery, Petah Tikva, today, Thursday, December 20, 1984 at 2.30 p.m.

The Family

To Rachel and Sarit Furst
Deepest sympathy on the death of your husband, father

LESLIE FURST

Milchan Bros. Ltd.
Management and Staff

Moriah Congregation, Haifa
The Movement of Masorti Judaism
World Council of Synagogues

mourn the passing of

DAVID FREEMAN

a founder of Conservative Judaism in Israel

With deep regret we announce the death of our beloved

Dr. ERIC EZEKIEL

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, December 20, 1984
כ"ו בטבת תשמ"ד
at 3 p.m.
At the Shavei Zion Cemetery

Mourners:
Wife: Rivka
Children: Ron, Gai, Michal
Hedva and Gideon Iruv
and children.
Ella Shatz (Iruv)

We announce with deep regret the passing of

REUBEN MILUN

(ex-Cape Town)

The funeral will take place on Friday, December 21, 1984 at 11 a.m. at Holon Cemetery.

Deeply mourned by:
His wife: Nancy, children and grandchildren
His brother: Jack, and Family (Cape Town)
His sister: Anne Levin, and family
His sister: Bessie Yardeni, and family

The Hadassah Family in Israel
mourns the passing of

LAWRENCE SCHACHT

who, with his late wife Aileen, was a devoted supporter of Hadassah.

Case could reach World Court

West Bank lawyers challenge road plan

By MICHAEL ELIAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A group of West Bank lawyers plans to challenge the legality of a \$400 million Israeli road scheme before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The new "Road Plan Number 50," published early this year, according to the lawyers, entail the expropriation of a total of 46,000 dunams of land. All construction and development on another 78,000 dunams of land alongside the broad new roads will be frozen, according to details of the plan published by the Civilian Administration.

The road plan had been challenged at the High Court of Justice, but it turned down the petition, ruling that the proposed roads would benefit the Arab population. Lawyers Aziz, Fuad and Raja Shehadeh, and a team of experts from Al-Najah University in Nablus say that the opposite is true.

The new roads, they say, would freeze all development in the villages and towns it bypasses because of the ban on all building in the vicinity of the roads.

In a Jerusalem press conference yesterday, Amr Wahid Mari appealed to Prime Minister Peres to demonstrate goodwill. Referring to reports that Peres is interested in efforts to entice Jordan into the peace process he said: "You have to attract to be attractive." Another spokesman at the press conference said that Jordan is closely following the road scheme which could be viewed as an "acid test" of the new government's real intentions.

Masri prepared a report on a 20-kilometre stretch of proposed "Road Number 57" which leads east from Tulkarm and crosses through Nablus until it links up with the main north-south road in the Jordan Valley. Construction of this relatively small part of the whole road plan would cause about \$27 million in damages to Arab farmers and residents of the town of Antaba. Masri

writes in his report.

Further east along the same road, the plan calls for the destruction of the Ghor al-Fara irrigation scheme which supplies water to 16,000 dunams of cultivated land. The road plan specifically forbids construction of pipes or other water conduits that would cross the road.

The plan, devised by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, the Civilian Administration and the Defence Ministry, was promulgated in the West Bank as the work of the Higher Town Planning Council, originally a Jordanian institution now staffed by Israeli officers. The plan deals with roughly 600 kilometres of roads, some of which have already been built. The basic idea behind the plan appears to be to change the existing road grid which had main north-south roads with a new system linking up to fast connections with the Israeli road system.

Hisham Awartani of Al-Najah University in Nablus who too was a member of another team which examined the effects of the road system, said yesterday that the cost per capita for the new road system would be \$8,000 per West Bank settler.

Only countries have the right to appeal directly to the High Court of Justice in The Hague. The team of lawyers, therefore, plans to try to obtain an advisory opinion from the court. The mechanism for obtaining such an opinion is referring the matter to the UN General Assembly or the Security Council. Two thirds of the vote in the General Assembly are necessary for referral to the High Court in The Hague. If they manage to get such a referral, the lawyers first plan to seek an interim order forbidding construction until a full hearing can be convened.

The lawyers said that "thousands" of Arabs had filed legal objections to the road scheme, which cannot be approved until these objections are heard. Aziz Shehadeh said that as far as he knows, no date has yet been set for hearing these objections.

Christian TV film promotes Jerusalem as Israeli capital

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Holocaust, wounded IDF veterans and the Soviet menace are featured prominently in an American Christian TV film which presses for U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Jerusalem, D.C. (David's Capital), a 50-minute television programme co-produced by Jerusalem Capital Studios and the Media Corporation, an evangelical Christian firm, was shown yesterday to Israeli officials and journalists. Featuring U.S. evangelist Mike Evans, it calls on Americans to sign a proclamation urging the U.S. president to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

In addition to Evans, such Christian TV personalities as Jerry Falwell, Pat Boone and Oral Roberts are also shown. Viewers are urged to call a number flashed on the screen to register their support and to contribute money to enable the show to be telecast on additional stations.

Jim Nicholls, vice president of the Media Corporation, said that eventually the film will be seen on 140 stations throughout the U.S. So far, he said, some 60,000 viewers have responded. For every 10 supporters, one person is violently opposed, he said.

The film opens with an imaginary TV newscast in 1989 showing a sudden Soviet attack on the Middle East. A capsule history of Zionism is followed with numerous shots of concentration-camp victims, illegal immigrants being turned back or held in Haifa Port and long battle scenes from the Six Day War.

Closely following every appeal by the TV evangelist are shots of Soviet military parades in Red Square. By supporting Israel, the film implies, Americans will deter Soviet expansion.

Gaza minor detained in TA bus attack

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A minor from Gaza employed in the Tel Aviv wholesale market was ordered detained yesterday for five days on suspicion of throwing a handgrenade at a Dan bus on Monday evening.

The police representative told Judge Hadassah Ahituv that the grenade attack on the bus was a terrorist operation, and showed her classified information. He said the accused disappeared from the market at about the time of the attack.

The young man had told police he had been in Gaza that day, the police representative added, but his brother had denied this alibi, adding that the accused had returned to Tel Aviv the day before the attack.

The accused insisted in court that he had been in Gaza on the day of the attack and said other relatives

could verify this. He said that he returns to Gaza daily after work.

He told the judge that his questioners had beaten him severely and that two police guards had threatened to kill him or that he would spend 20 years in jail if he did not confess to the crime. He identified these two as Motti Carmeli and Avi Nimberg.

"I didn't do a thing, I live with my wife and they simply picked me up," he told the court.

PIRATE TV. - Carmiel resident Moshe Haddad, 22, yesterday was fined \$100,000 by the Acre Magistrates Court for operating an illegal cable television station during 1983. His equipment, except for the video machine and recordings were confiscated.



The upper terminal of Haifa's cable car was completed last week. The cable is due to open next summer.

Haifa cable-car project gets green light

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - Building work has started on the lower terminal of Haifa's \$3 million cable-car project now that a protracted land-lease dispute between the developers has been resolved. The Jerusalem Post learned yesterday.

Hanan Nitzan, director of the Haifa Economic Corporation, said a compromise agreement had been reached over the cost of leasing the land for the station in Bat Galim from the Israel Lands Authority. The cable-car is designed to give tourists a panoramic view of Haifa.

The upper terminal on the tip of French Carmel near the Carmelite Monastery was completed last week. The corporation is now inviting tenders from private firms for the lease of shops and cafes on the upper terminal.

The cable car itself will be owned by the corporation, a municipality subsidiary, and will be run on a commercial basis.

The project, which is being financed jointly by the corporation and Tourism Ministry, is aimed at attracting more tourists to the city.

The lower terminal, which will also include restaurants, a coffee

house and boutiques, is situated at the end of the Bat Galim promenade which has recently been extended.

It is planned to operate the cable car on Saturdays - which is expected to be the most profitable day - but the religious bloc in the city council coalition has yet to give its approval. The cable car is due to become operational by the end of June next year.

The 350-metre ride, which has an elevation of 115 metres, will take from 2½ to 4 minutes. There will be six round perspex cars seating six people each, three going up as three descend.

Major shakeup planned for Police Ministry

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Plans for a reorganization of the police ministry are being worked out after the new director-general, Gad Avineri, discovered that the Interior Ministry's police department officials were unable to provide information to Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

According to Avineri, "while there have been some good things done by the police," a "faulty organization making for faulty communication" is partly to blame for past ministry failures.

The Police Ministry, under Bar-Lev was separated from the Interior Ministry by the national unity government.

Avineri discovered, for example, that the minister had a half-time "adviser" on the Prison Service who was unable to provide the minister with basic information about conditions in the service.

Avineri told reporters yesterday that he had to go to Prison Service Commissioner Mordechai Wertheimer for information concerning plans to relieve overcrowding.

By mid-February a committee of police, prison and civil service commission officials, helped by management experts, are to suggest ways to reorganize the ministry. Avineri said yesterday he envisages a system of "staff personnel" similar to the staff organization in the army. Avineri has spent his entire professional career in elite army units.

"If the prison service or police come to the minister with a request, the staff I'm planning to put together should be able to provide a counterweight to the arguments," said Avineri.

In the past, organization was held up by disputes between Interior Minister Yosef Burg and senior police officers.

The new ministry staff is not supposed to take part in operational decision making, but rather in policy making, giving the minister parallel advice to that of the police.

Avineri said that there is a \$5.5 billion budget deficit resulting from erosion of the police budget by inflation. The police are soon to present to the minister an explanation of their proposed seven-year plan, which involves increases in the police budget in the coming years.

Avineri seemed confident that he would get "a reasonable response" from the Treasury concerning the deficit, which he warned could start by mid-January to impede police operations, because the police will not be able to pay for electricity, food and the petrol needed for patrol cars. He seemed doubtful though that the ministry will back the demand for increased budgets in the coming years.

Peres praises Lahat for new culture centre

TEL AVIV. - Prime Minister Peres attended a dedication ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum yesterday for the Golda Centre - a cultural complex slated to go up in a 145-dunam plot on nearby Shaul HaMelech Avenue.

Peres told Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat and other personalities gathered at the ceremony commemorating Golda Meir that her leadership shared with art a "common origin in moments of stress." He also noted that the late Premier had been an avid art lover, and praised Lahat for dedicating the complex in her memory.

The centre, which is expected to be the largest in the country, will house separate auditoriums for opera, theatre and musical performances.

Knesset debate on Kahane fixed for Tuesday

Post Knesset Reporter

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel yesterday scheduled the debate on the revocation of Kach MK Meir Kahane's privileged freedom of movement for next Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Kahane will then exercise his right to make a statement, an aide of his said yesterday. The floor will then be opened to any other member who wishes to speak on the question.



Christmas trees are collected yesterday from the Jewish National Fund distribution point at Neve Shalom near Latrun. The JNF is giving out more than 2,000 trees to Christian organizations, UN troops, embassies and churches.

Israeli Christmas trees off to Syria

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Some 25 Israeli Christmas trees made their way northward yesterday to spread cheer in Damascus.

They are part of the 2,200 distributed by the Jewish National Fund to churches, diplomats, foreign correspondents and other institutions and individuals. The 25 trees are going from the central distribution point at Neve Shalom, near Latrun, to UN headquarters in Damascus. Another seven are destined for Amman and 17 for Nakoura.

The trees are cypress saplings which are thinned out by JNF fore-

sters. The trees are distributed free to all but private individuals, who paid a fee of \$750.

Among the bigger orders were several hundred trees for the Jerusalem and Nazareth municipalities. Jerusalemites who were not able to get to yesterday's distribution can do so tomorrow morning at the Jaffa Gate.

This is the 25th year the JNF has distributed trees. The JNF spokesman said that many Christian individuals and institutions contribute to help make the Holy Land green. The tree distribution, he said, is a return gesture.

Experimental traffic lights cause accidents

HAIFA. - The flashing green traffic light introduced in the 1970s at selected intersections in a move to improve safety conditions actually causes collisions. Three experts of the Technion's Transportation Research Institute have advised the Transport Ministry to abolish it.

Over 2,000 tests were carried out

with 46 drivers who were shown films using the standard green-amber-red traffic lights and the experimental flashing green-amber combination.

The testers found that the green-amber combination increased the drivers' uncertainty and caused many rear-end collisions.

Bank of Israel wants to stop lending money to the Treasury

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A bill that would eventually prohibit the Bank of Israel from lending money to the Treasury and would force the government to finance itself by selling bonds to the public is being prepared by the central bank, bank governor Moshe Mandelbaum disclosed yesterday.

The effect of the bill would be to prevent the government from financing its activities by having the bank print money.

Mandelbaum revealed the plan at a joint meeting of the central bank's advisory committee and executive, also attended by President Herzog, which marked the bank's 30th anniversary.

The governor presented the bill under preparation as a way of increasing "the bank's control of money flow in the economy." At first, he said, it would limit the amount the government could borrow (in "printed" money) from the central bank. Later, such borrowing would be banned outright. Deficit funding would be accomplished by the sale of bonds to the public.

During the transition period, Mandelbaum continued, the central bank would be allowed to purchase part of these bonds, which would mean some "printing" of money. But within "three to four years," all the bonds would be bought by the public.

This model exists in the U.S. and has proved itself as being a very powerful instrument in stabilizing the currency," the governor said.

The president, at the beginning of his three-hour tour of the bank's premises said he had not come as an economic expert and was the first to admit that he had no solution to the economic crisis. But he did criticize those who are "making cracks" in the national unity coalition.

Who, he asked, would consider seriously the aid requests of the economic mission now appearing before Congress at a time when "there is a government crisis and political division on marginal matters?" Hinting at the Shas crisis, Herzog said that all such problems "can be solved within the government," and that the national unity government must remain whole at all costs.

Deaf score Gur and Katsav

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Representatives of organizations for the deaf yesterday accused Health Minister Mordechai Gur and Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav of ignoring their problems, after both ministers said they cannot attend a protest rally planned for Monday.

They were also annoyed that the police permit for their march to Kikar Malchei Yisrael confined

them to the sidewalks. They had asked for streets to be closed off for the march to prevent danger to the deaf participants. The representatives said that confining them to the pavements made them feel like second-class citizens.

The planned "march of silence" is to demand that deaf people be given the same rights as other disabled. At present the deaf are not regarded as disabled. They are also demanding that television programmes be subtitled.

Rambam workers vow fight 'by all means' against layoffs

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - Staff at the city's Rambam hospital vowed yesterday to fight "by whatever means necessary" Health Ministry proposals to dismiss 47 employees.

The decision was taken at a general staff meeting which was also attended by representatives from all the hospitals in the north and a senior official of the Haifa Labour Council.

"We will not allow even one employee to be dismissed," said hospital works committee chairman Meir Cohen.

Afterwards the doctors' committee at Rambam pledged its full support for the workers.

The staff, in fact, are demanding that the Health Ministry increase the number of personnel in accordance with the recommendations of a survey made in 1981 on Rambam's elevation to regional hospital status.

Cohen maintained that the hospital is already suffering from chronic understaffing and needs at least 200

more employees to bring it up to the levels laid down by the 1981 survey.

"We do not have enough staff to give the treatment they deserve. This shortage has already given rise to friction between patients, their relatives and the staff. The patients complain of not receiving attention on time without realizing that nurses and other staff cannot be in two places at once," he said.

Cohen accused Health Minister Mordechai Gur of breaking a promise, made during a recent visit to the hospital, to maintain hospital staff at the August 1984 level.

Meanwhile private contractors responsible for cleaning and maintenance work at Rambam failed to turn up yesterday in protest against not having been paid for their services.

Other suppliers are threatening to withhold their services because of debts now totalling nearly \$500,000. The hospital said it cannot pay because the Treasury has not forwarded the necessary funds.

Ex-undercover man jailed for gun theft

HAIFA (Itim). - A Druse who reportedly has done undercover work for Israel in enemy countries was yesterday sentenced to two years in prison for conspiring to buy a stolen army rifle from a deserter.

Abdullah Mula, 68, of Yirka, was also fined \$1 million by the District Court here. Co-defendant Salim Hagazi, a 57-year-old Tamra resident, was given three years in jail and a \$1.5 million fine.

Late last year Mula arranged for a Yirka man who had deserted from the army to sell a rifle to Hagazi for several hundred dollars. The deserter delivered the rifle, stolen from an army base in the south, and received \$800 from Hagazi.

The deserter then turned himself in to the police at the behest of Druse sheikh Jaber Muadi (a former Knes-

set member), who had learned of the incident. The soldier later escaped, but was caught and tried before a military court for his part in the affair.

Former Yirka local council head Yusef Mula, testifying as a character witness, said Abdullah Mula had done two or three undercover missions for Israel in enemy countries.

In handing down the sentence, Judge Dan Bein said, "It is a shame that late in his life Abdullah Mula was involved in an act that damaged the state."

Koor cancels decision to dismiss bottlers

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The Koor management announced yesterday that it would not dismiss workers from the Phoenix bottle factory in Yeroham. The announcement countermanded a previous decision to dismiss temporary workers due to the factory's financial difficulties.



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China, Britain sign 'historic' accord on Hongkong

PEKING (AP). — China and Britain signed an agreement yesterday that restores the British colony of Hongkong to Peking's control in 1997 and guarantees its capitalist system for 50 years thereafter, an accord the Chinese Communists called one of "historical significance."

In a 15-minute ceremony in Peking's Great Hall of the People, Prime Minister Thatcher and Premier Zhao Ziyang signed the pact, witnessed by senior leader Deng Xiaoping, President Li Xian'an, 101 Hongkong dignitaries and other guests.

Reached after two years of talks

and initiated September 26 under a Chinese deadline, the accord says Britain will return the free port of 5.5 million people when its lease expires, and Hongkong will become a special administrative region of China.

The Chinese have pledged to maintain Hongkong's present system for 50 years after the takeover and to give the territory a large degree of autonomy, guaranteed by law.

"The Sino-British joint declaration on the question of Hongkong has satisfactorily settled China's resumption of exercise of sovereignty

over Hongkong and laid a solid foundation for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hongkong," Zhao said at the signing. He told Thatcher: "We have accomplished a task of historical significance."

It was a major diplomatic achievement for the British leader, whose visit two years ago formally started the negotiations that led to the agreement.

"The concept of 'one country, two systems,' preserving two different social and economic systems within one nation, has no precedent," she said. "The concept is an example of

how apparently intractable problems can and should be resolved."

It was the high point of a frenetic day for Thatcher, who received a 19-gun salute in the morning, talked for three hours with Zhao, lunch with Li and conferred with Deng and Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang before attending the ceremony in the Great Hall's western room.

British since 1841, Hongkong is the world's largest financial centre after New York and London, and a major foreign currency earner for the Communists.

Gorbachev skips visit to Marx's grave

LONDON (AP). — Senior Kremlin figure Mikhail Gorbachev had lunch with opposition leader Neil Kinnock yesterday after staying away from a Soviet delegation's visit to lay a wreath at the grave of Karl Marx, the father of communism.

A group of women protesters gathered at Highgate Cemetery in North London and shouted slogans against the Soviet KGB secret police.

Protesters have demonstrated at most public appearances by Gorbachev, reputedly the No. 2 man in the Soviet leadership, since he arrived in London last Saturday on a week-long visit.

Gorbachev, meanwhile, went to Parliament for lunch and talks with Labour Party leader Kinnock, who visited Moscow recently and was told the Soviets would stick by their pledge to dismantle as many nuclear weapons as Britain does. Labour has promised to scrap Britain's nuclear arsenal of 64 Polaris submarine-based missiles should it win power.

Gorbachev's tentative schedule had shown him leading the delegation of Soviet lawmakers to Highgate Cemetery, but instead, the chief Kremlin spokesman headed the Soviets' visit to the gravesite, surrounded by security guards, reporters and cameramen.

Ted Hughes named UK's poet laureate

LONDON (AP). — Ted Hughes, whose powerful poetry explores mankind's relationship with nature and destiny, was appointed yesterday to succeed the late Sir John Betjeman as Britain's poet laureate.

Prime Minister Thatcher's office announced the selection of 54-year-old Hughes as state-appointed laureate, a job which dates from the 17th century with the official duty of recording great state events in verse.

Hughes, husband of the late poet and author Sylvia Plath, was described by *Sunday Times* critic Claire Tomalin as "a great patriot" with "the ability to write about almost any subject, from a tractor that won't start to a man-eating plant."

His relative youth made him an outside contender for the job, behind 62-year-old Philip Larkin, often called the poet's poet, and 72-year-old Oxford University Prof. Roy Fuller.

The post fell vacant last May 19 when Betjeman died at the age of 77.

UN votes \$73m. to build Ethiopian conference centre

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — The UN General Assembly on Tuesday adjourned a session overshadowed by Africa's devastating famine after deciding to spend \$73.5 million on a new UN conference centre in drought-stricken Ethiopia.

The U.S. denounced the project as "a cruel rebuff to the poor, the hungry and the downtrodden who have invested their hopes and dreams in the promise of international cooperation."

The vote was 122-5, with 16 abstentions. Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands joined the U.S. in voting against the confer-

ence centre for the Economic Commission for Africa, a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council. Most other Western countries abstained while the Soviet bloc supported the project.

As the assembly adopted the resolution, a group of some 50 countries who are contributing emergency assistance to Ethiopia were meeting a floor below with Berhanu Dersessa, that country's deputy commissioner for relief and rehabilitation.

In explaining American opposition to the conference centre, U.S. delegate Richard Nygard asked delegates:

"What signal will the UN send to

the international community by spending so lavishly on a status symbol for a country where millions are threatened with starvation?"

Instead, he proposed, the money could have been spent to inoculate a million children against all major communicable diseases, to build 25,000 wells and install pumps bringing water to 12.5 million people, to feed 125,000 Ethiopian families for one year, and to supply all of Chad's cereal imports for 1985.

As it rushed toward adjournment, the assembly's 39th session also ended a prolonged deadlock in the race for an African seat on the 15-member UN Security Council by

electing Madagascar, a compromise candidate.

In adjourning the session, assembly President Paul Lusaka of Zambia said he was gratified that it had provided the setting for "the initial steps" toward a resumption of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks scheduled January 7-8 in Geneva.

At its final meeting of the year, the council put off debate on several outstanding items on its agenda: the situation in Central America, the question of Cyprus, the Iran-Iraq war and the long-delayed issue of launching North-South "global negotiations" on a wide range of economic issues.

Most Pakistanis boycott president's Islam referendum

ISLAMABAD (AP). — Most voters boycotted a nationwide referendum yesterday in which Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq was virtually certain to win a sweeping mandate for his Islamization policy and a further five years as president.

Although Zia's military regime stifled opposition calls for a boycott, barely one third the registered voters had cast their votes by closing time at some polling stations in Pakistan's

major cities.

In Lahore, 15 people were injured and 24 arrested when police charged an opposition meeting where speakers accused the government of massive vote rigging, it was the only reported violence during the referendum.

The government extended the scheduled voting time by 90 minutes to allow more time for what it called the "unprecedented rush of voters."

However, a visit to several stations in the capital, Islamabad, as the polls closed at 5:30 p.m. showed them deserted, with barely half the names checked off the list of registered voters.

Reports from Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, and other areas indicated a large number of abstentions.

The government issued no immediate voting figures, and the referendum result may not be

announced before Saturday.

The official media reported a massive turnout.

Zia has ruled Pakistan since he seized power in a 1977 army coup and has never before been elected.

The opposition's boycott call was declared illegal and punishable with three-year prison terms, fines and other penalties. Campaigning for a vote against Zia also was illegal.

'Kosher' meat dealers arrested in N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP). — Inspectors found several hundred kilos of non-kosher meat during raids of two kosher meat dealers in New York's Brooklyn section, leading to charges against the companies' presidents. State Attorney-General Robert Abrams said on Tuesday.

One of the dealers, Royal Crown Kosher Provisions, sells meat to butcher shops, restaurants and other wholesalers, and is "believed to be an exporter of poultry and beef products to several foreign countries, including Israel," Abrams said in a news release.

The other dealer was identified as Georgetown Kosher Meats, which operates a "large retail butcher shop located in a shopping centre."

according to the attorney-general's office.

Commissioner Joseph Gerace of the Department of Agriculture and Markets said more than 1 million consumers buy kosher food each day in New York State.

Charged with misdemeanor violations of the Agriculture and Markets Law were Albert Abramov, 54, president of Rachleff Kosher Provisions Inc., which operates in Brooklyn as Royal Crown and Chaim Berger, 50, president of Tom Berg Kosher Meats Inc., which does business under the Georgetown name.

If convicted, each could face up to a year in jail and a \$500 fine. In addition, Gerace said, civil penalties could be levied.

Five die in latest Sri Lankan clash

COLOMBO (AP). — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed two army officers and a soldier in a landmine ambush yesterday, and two guerrillas died in the shootout that ensued, the army reported.

A military spokesman said 15 soldiers also were wounded, six of them seriously, when a land mine blew up two trucks in the eastern district of Trincomalee.

Police said about 25 soldiers were moving from an army camp at Sinhapura, near Padaviya in the north central province, to a camp at Pulmodai on the east coast when they were ambushed.

Yesterday's blast followed a similar attack Tuesday near Kalawanchikudy, in the eastern district of Batticaloa, where eight policemen and a civilian driver were killed when their jeep hit a land mine.

Tamil guerrillas have escalated their activities for the past month. They have been attacking security forces and civilians of the majority Sinhalese community living in what the separatists claim to be Tamil territory.

Austrian police clash with environmentalists

VIENNA (Reuters). — Six policemen and 11 demonstrators were hurt yesterday when Austrian police moved in to clear people blocking building work on a new dam that environmentalists say will destroy one of the last primeval forests in Europe.

Eight hundred policemen were ordered into the forest of Hainburg, lying between Vienna and the Czechoslovak border, to move 1,500 environmentalists camping in freezing weather.

Protesters say the hydroelectric project, which the government wants to reduce Austria's dependence on oil and gas, will destroy the Auwald Forest, a 50-square kilometre tract formed by thousands of years of flooding of the sluggish Danube River.

RARE BIRD. — A rare parrot from Borneo reportedly worth more than \$3,000 has been stolen from Wrocław Zoo in southwestern Poland, a zoo official said yesterday. Zoo authorities said two youths broke into an aviary to steal the bird.

Iran says it will try four hijackers

NICOSIA (AP). — The four Arab-speaking hijackers who killed two Americans aboard a Kuwaiti airliner two weeks ago will be tried in Teheran, the Iranian Public Prosecutor announced Tuesday.

Iran, the official Iranian news agency, said prosecutor Hojatollah Mir Emadi told a new conference the four would be tried according to Iran's Islamic penal code.

The agency quoted Emadi as saying the hijackers were still being

interrogated and that a date for the trial would be set as soon as the investigation is completed.

Both the U.S. and Kuwait have asked Iran to hand over the hijackers. Emadi turned down those demands, saying that because other countries refused to extradite hijackers of Iranian planes, "such irrational requests will not be accepted."

In Washington, on Tuesday, the State Department took the unusual step of also demanding that the trial be held in public.

Residents slowly returning to Bhopal

BHOPAL, India (AP). — Scientists began the final phase of "Operation Faith" yesterday to neutralize the gas that killed more than 2,000 people when it leaked from a chemical plant on December 3.

A spokesman said that as soon as the remaining gas was converted to pesticide later yesterday or today, scientists would examine the tank that allowed the gas to escape.

Residents who had fled in fear of a second gas leak were returning slowly to this stricken, depopulated central Indian city, where national parliamentary elections scheduled for

December 24 were postponed because of the disaster.

But the slums around the Union Carbide pesticide plant where the leak occurred were still virtual ghost towns yesterday. Most of the victims died in these slums.

Scientists said 12 tons of methyl isocyanate had been processed into pesticide by Tuesday night and at least 4.2 tons remained.

The conversion process is being carried out by Union Carbide technicians under the supervision of Indian experts.

Actor Peter Lawford in serious condition

LOS ANGELES (AP). — Peter Lawford was hospitalized in serious condition with an "uncertain" prognosis Tuesday, and the suave British-born actor's family began to gather at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, a hospital spokesman said.

At the request of his wife, Patricia, no further information was

being released about the 61-year-old actor, except that he had been hospitalized since Sunday, a Cedars spokesman said.

MONGOL. — The leader of Mongolia's Communist Party, Jambyn Batmunkh, has been made head of state.

Auctioned Nazi loot may not benefit Jews

VIENNA (AP). — The Austrian government is moving to auction off Jewish-owned art seized by the Nazis and stored in the vaults of a former monastery. Just who will benefit from the sale is still undecided.

The government's handling of the treasure has touched off protests here and overseas, with critics complaining that bumbling and bureaucracy have kept some of the valuables from their rightful owners.

Despite a 1969 law stipulating forfeiture by 1973 of unclaimed works of art, the government has not yet set a date for the auction.

Officials asked about the delay made somewhat conflicting statements, but all agreed that the government did not want to derive any profit from the property that was stolen by the Nazis from Austrian Jews.

A spokesman for the government

said Science and Research Minister Heinz Fischer wants the auction to take place "in good time," perhaps next year, the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Thousands of paintings, drawings, coins, books and other works of art where first stored after the war in a salt mine and then taken to what used to be a Carthusian monastery at Mauerbach, south of Vienna.

No outsiders have been permitted to enter the premises, since they might then be able to identify pieces of the lost treasure as their own. No official value has been set on the trove.

The government now says the auction plan will be strongly pursued and carried out for the benefit of some charitable organization. Official word followed a highly critical article recently published by the U.S. magazine *Arbans*.

"Maybe there was a certain sloppiness on the part of our bureaucracy," the spokesman admitted. "Things were perhaps not handled with the necessary perseverance."

In a letter sent to the government in June, Ivan Hacker, president of the Jewish community, and the Union of Resistance Fighters proposed Jewish groups that should benefit from the sale of the remaining Nazi loot.

But there seems to be official indecision about whether the money should go to Jewish charities or to other welfare organizations.

The spokesman said there are still 3,000 books, 500 lesser-quality paintings and hundreds of drawings and coins in the Mauerbach storerooms under the jurisdiction of the Federal Monuments Bureau.

Sports

Israel beat Luxembourg 2-0

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter

PETAH TIKVA. — The Israel national soccer team beat Luxembourg 2-0 yesterday here in a friendly international match, that at times looked far too friendly to be more than a training session. When the players left the field at half-time, with the scores 0-0, they were booed by the several hundred fans present.

As if in response to this booing, Rifat Turk fired in a sizzler of a shot a minute after the game resumed, only to see it brilliantly saved by

goalkeeper Van Rijhijk. A minute later, a Luxembourg defender stopped the ball with his hand as it was about to cross the goal-line, and Uni Malmilian made no mistake with the resultant penalty.

Two minutes later, Petry should have equalized, but he headed wide in front of an open Israeli goal. In the 30th minute, Eli Ohana scored with a low shot from a perfect Moshe Sinai cross.

For the rest of the game, the Israeli defence withstood all that Luxembourg could throw at them.

Swedish key to victory

GOTHENBERG, Sweden. — Henrik Sundstrom completed the Swedish triumph over the U.S. by beating Jimmy Arias in the reverse singles 3-6, 8-6, 6-3. Thus the Swedes won the tie 4-1.

"Americans are still making the same mistake which McEnroe and others made and only learning to master fast surfaces," Arthur Ashe, the American non-playing captain, said in a newspaper interview.

Mats Wilander attributed Sweden's success to a well-developed club network. "Our clubs

are good and serious. There is a strong tennis tradition and everyone can play," he said.

John McEnroe, the Wimbledon U.S. Open champion, and his doubles partner Peter Fleming complained about the clay court, which was specially made by the Swedes for the occasion.

"Unless you have a good four weeks practice, you're not ready to play on clay," said McEnroe.

Both McEnroe and Jimmy Connors play an attacking game and take the ball on the rise.

"So you need to have the ball bounce the right way every time, and it just wasn't," McEnroe said. "If you play the way the Swedes do, at least they have more time."

1,500 Hanukka rackets

By JACK LEON
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A total of 1,500 players are competing in the Israel Tennis Association's traditional Hanukka Junior Championships and the third annual "All-in-the-Family" national tournament, both of which get under way today.

Israel's tennis star Shlomo Glickstein will be the big attraction at the "Family" tournament, when he plays with his sister Yael in the event for brothers and sisters.

The meet, sponsored by Kol-Bo Shalom, is taking place over the next two weekends at Hador Yosef's 18-court Kiryat Ha-Tennis here. It starts at 6 p.m. this evening.

Of the nine events being contested in men's, women's and mixed doubles, by far the biggest

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET. — West Indies defeated a Victorian country XI by 64 runs in a one-day match in Echuca. Eddie Baptiste hit five sixes, one right out of the ground, and four fours in his 75, made in 62 minutes, enabling the Windies to declare at 279 for 9. The Victorians reached the respectable score of 215 for four (Brey 96 not out).

In Gashatti, a hurricane century by Greene Fowler (114), including 11 fours and a six, contributed to England reaching 277 for 5 against East Zone on the first day of a four-day match. India has dropped their great all-rounder, Kapil Dev, from the national Test team.

In Adelaide, the touring English women's team won an exciting one-day match against South Australia by seven runs.

SPORTOTO

By PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. — Ten persons marked correctly all 13 results in last week's Sportoto, each winner collecting \$15,000. Twelve results were worth \$117,000 each, eleven \$59,000, \$51,360. Sportoto promises a minimum \$15,000, this week.

	Single Line	Perman. Line
Yavne v Hap. Haifa	1	1X
Hakoah v Hap. TA	2	2
Mac. PT v Betar J'ru	2	1X2
Bersheba v Netanya	1	2X
Lev v Jaffa	1	2
Shimon v Hap. PT	1	X
Mac. TA v Kfar Sava	1	1
Mac. Haifa v Betar TA	1	1
Beit Yehuda v Bet. H.	1	1
Thiberia v Marmorek	1	1
R. Asidat v K. Shimon	1	1
Hadera v Yehud	1	1
Ashdod v R. Hasharon	X	X

The Jerusalem Post

Hanukka Book Bazaar

Books for all ages at special holiday prices!

HOME COMING
By Nathan Efrati & Yossi Stern
The history of immigration to Israel from Abraham through the 1980's, combining the research of historian Efrati with the beautiful illustrations of distinguished Israeli artist Stern.
List IS 7.125 Now IS 6.413

JUDAISM A-Z
By Yacov Newman & Gavriel Shvan
A comprehensive volume that includes everything from Yiddish colloquialisms to Sephardi expressions. Cross-references, source references, index and bibliography contributed to this book's value in understanding our culture and religion. Published by WZO, hardcover, 342 pages.
List IS 7.590 Now IS 6.075

TORAH AND FLORA
Torah and Flora
By Louis I. Rabinowitz
Based on the author's regular column in The Jerusalem Post, this book is of special interest to both Bible lovers and nature lovers, combining rabbinic insight with natural history to produce a delightful book.
Published by Sanhedrin Press, hardcover, 168 pages
List IS 4.745 Now IS 4.150

IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM
By Gabriella Rosenthal
Recollections of Jerusalem in the 1940s and '50s make up this folksy, delightful book of drawings and anecdotes. Jerusalem's many ethnic groups and types of year-rounders are depicted in the acclaimed cartoons that originally appeared in The Palestine Post. Published by Tzvi Press, softcover.
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Hanukka Book Bazaar prices effective until January 15, 1985.



A good friend, a cultivated mind

Israel Bonds is celebrating the centennial of the birth of Eleanor Roosevelt, who was a strong supporter of Israel and the Jewish people.
Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports.

Eleanor Roosevelt receives an award for distinguished service to Israel from Golda Meir in 1961 (left), and purchases an Israel Bond from Henry Morgenthau, Jr., one of the early chairmen of the Bonds board of governors, in 1951 (below left). (Right) Mrs. Roosevelt during one of her visits here and, in 1959, with Hanech Neuner who was then mayor of Eilat (below right).



"LOOKS ALONE do not make one attractive; if you cultivate your mind and your spirit, you can have charm, which is far more important than looks."

That advice, given by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1949, seems as good as any to describe herself. The centennial of the birth of that great charming woman - American First Lady, author, diplomat and humanitarian - is currently being marked throughout the U.S. and around the free world.

Although as a young girl who was educated by private tutors and in exclusive schools she once spoke unflatteringly about the Jews, Eleanor Roosevelt developed into a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people.

Shocked by revelations of Nazi persecution and murder, she saw Israel as the solution to the problem of Jewish homelessness. She used her influence to help many escape the Nazis at a time when others in government turned away from Jewish suffering.

She visited Israel several times and came to know its leaders well. In June, 1951, when Mrs. Roosevelt purchased her first Israel Bond in honor of the wife of Henry Morgenthau (he was a secretary of the treasury and chairman of the Bonds board of governors), she said: "The success of the Israel Bond issue will enable the new nation to realize its many opportunities for industrial and agricultural growth. In strengthening the economy of Israel, we are also strengthening its capacity to serve humanity and the highest interests of democracy and peace."

She spared no effort to help Israel Bonds and made speeches for the campaigns for 13 years.

Thus it is fitting that Israel Bonds is the sole Jewish organization to join in the centennial celebrations by holding 38 dinners around the U.S., selling bonds in her memory.

The mere mention of the name Eleanor Roosevelt arouses fond memories in the minds of those who remember her from personal encounters, radio or TV appearances or books and photographs. One person who is moved by her memory is Susan Weikers, an insurance executive in Philadelphia who is (volunteer) national associate chairman of special events at Israel Bonds.

Weikers went to Hyde Park, the Roosevelt home, when Israel Bonds decided to hold a year-long celebration of Eleanor's birth. It was decided to raise \$50 million through the sale of Bonds at dinners honoring 38 outstanding Jewish and non-Jewish women who have supported Israel in the tradition of Eleanor Roosevelt and who have bettered the lives of people in their community.

James Roosevelt, the 76-year-old eldest son of Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt, is serving as honorary chairman of the Bonds project and has agreed that all money raised from the dinners goes to Israel.

Heading the Bonds centennial committee is Alice Pearce (widow of the famed opera star Jan Pearce) who is also chairman of the Bonds board of governors. Alice knew Eleanor well, having travelled with her often during Eleanor's years of speaking for Bonds.

The dinners began in March (seven months before the actual date of the 100th centenary) and will continue until the beginning of next year. Among the women to be honored are historian Barbara Tuchman, opera singer Roberta Peters, philanthropist Jane Stern, Lt. Governor Martha Griffiths and (selected before she was asked to run on the Democratic national ticket) Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro.

So far, over \$30 million has been raised through the dinners.

As a token of appreciation to those who buy at least \$2,500 worth of bonds, pendants were made from copies of the Israeli stamp issued in Eleanor's memory.

Looking for an appropriate gift for the 38 guests of honour, Bonds organizers searched for something memorable.

Someone noticed from old photos that Eleanor nearly always wore a gold fleur de lys pin. Her granddaughter Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves could not explain the significance of the pin, but she was certain that it had been dear to her. So Bonds commissioned a reproduction and 38 gold and seed pearl fleur de lys pins were made up as gifts.



In defence of the lone soldier

Social worker Sonia Peletz has taken hundreds of new immigrant soldiers under her wing, writes Ann Levine.

Peletz began by working in the English-speakers sector of the Jewish Agency, but, being multi-lingual she has since worked with olim from South America and Russia, including a posting in the Vienna transit centre.

How did her work with soldiers start? As she tells it: "One day I got furious. To my mind, it wasn't right that A-1 students were getting special immigrant benefits, but soldiers weren't. I don't know where I got the nerve, but I barged into the Jewish Agency office, waving a young soldier's papers. There was a meeting in progress, but it didn't stop me. I remember saying 'there's a serious matter here that can't be ignored.' I guess it

got their attention because, subsequently, the Agency created the 'lone soldier's grant'.

Peletz's career in the Absorption Ministry (created in 1968) began with two struggles: first, to have the 'lone soldier's grant' continued as a government benefit; and, second, to have returning children of Israeli emigrants recognized as newcomers.

Another aim has been to get the IDF to recognize the special needs of immigrant soldiers, especially those here on their own. In addition to pre-induction counselling, Sonia gives lectures and has run workshops for olim and army commanders, who otherwise get no guidance on dealing with olim in their officers' courses.

People from the army liaison office for immigrant soldiers say that Peletz's enthusiasm is exceptional. One officer says: "Her involvement and dedication to her work is an example. She cares so much, she makes you care, too."

Peletz demurs: "I couldn't do it all by myself." She points to the woman who shares her Tel Aviv office. "Hannah [Verana] is a tremendous help."

While pleased with the soldier's benefits gained so far, she sees room for more, especially in the area of housing. "I've heard there are funds and plans for a hostel in Ramat Hasharon for demobilized lone soldiers. I only hope it's true."

Zacharia, 26, has just moved into a room in the Bat Yam immigrants' hostel after finishing his army service. He is using this as his base while looking for work as a chemical technician.

He says: "When I was in the army, guys would invite me home for the weekends, but I really needed a place of my own. You can't be a visitor all the time."

Zacharia, along with other soldiers, has benefited from Peletz's personal contribution - an open house. "I'm lucky," she says, "because my daughter, Yael, has been very supportive and understanding about my adopted soldiers."

Peletz starts to tell about her new passion. Last summer, instead of going abroad on vacation, Sonia decided to get Haim Aharon's Jewish Agency aliyah and absorption head permission to live in the Safad absorption centre to work with the families.

"I'm not a psychologist or a social

worker, but I've had training and experience working with family workshops in the Adler Institute. I had no idea what to expect in Safad and, I think, that was good. I had an open mind and let the families themselves guide me, letting me know what they wanted and needed. I was telling them."

As it turned out, one of "Sonia's soldiers" was a counsellor at the centre. Knowing him helped her to be accepted. She also enlisted the help of her nieces, Tali and Shira, who helped break the ice with the resident-children.

Peletz worked with families on everything. Sonia shows me her chicken soup chart with each ingredient labelled in vowelized Hebrew.

Over the holidays, Peletz invited several of her new friends to stay with her. She says: "I wanted them to be here for Simhat Torah. One thing I now know, these people need more than learning Hebrew."

"JUST ASK for the 'soldiers' Sonia and you'll find her," Zacharia tells me.

Zacharia is one of the hundreds of new immigrant soldiers counselled by Absorption Ministry worker Sonia Peletz, whose special empathy comes from memories of her own first few years in Israel.

Peletz, a divorcee in her mid-forties, remembers what it means to be alone, without a home. She returned by herself to Israel in 1958 after several years in Brazil with her Russian-born parents who had left Israel in the early Fifties.

Peletz says: "I still keep one shoe to remind me of the time I lived out of suitcases, never sure where I'd be next. One shoe here, one left there."

Peletz feels that the top priority for one of her "lone soldier" counsellors is a permanent place to live, to go to on weekends and on leave from the army. "Lone soldiers" are defined as new immigrants here without any immediate family.

As Peletz sees it, "No institution can provide a soldier with a home-cooked meal, clean laundry, or a door opened with a smile, but it can provide proper housing in a place where a soldier has family and friends. That usually means the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem area. So, the offer of empty flats in far-flung places doesn't solve the problem."

Her decision to work with new immigrants dates back to a 1967 scholarship-funded trip to Italy to study Italian. There she saw refugee centres full of Gadafi - expelled Libyan Jews, en route to Israel.

She recalls: "As soon as I got back to Israel I went straight to the Jewish Agency. I knew they were laying off hundreds of workers, but it didn't faze me. I told them, point-blank: 'People like me you don't fire.' I was patient and persisted - in spite of a recent divorce, infant daughter, and dwindling bank balance. I held out till they hired me."

Women's news

Addie Drecksler

WOMEN in Jerusalem are now being given the opportunity to learn how to cope with the current inflationary crisis in workshops being arranged by the municipality's committee on the status of women. Among the topics covered in the workshops are basic rules of economics, setting household priorities and making the best use of available funds.

This bit of news - imparted by Ruth Lev, Jerusalem city council member and secretary of the city's Na'amat branch - was the best heard by participants in a recent day-long symposium sponsored by that organization and the Office of the Prime Minister's Adviser on the Status of Women. The focus of the programme was what women in municipal councils are or should be doing in light of the current economic crisis.

The tone was set by Hebrew Uni-

versity economist Prof. Haim Barkai, who discussed the impact of the country's financial situation on the municipalities.

After summing up the entire national problem as a case of tremendous debts owed to bodies both inside and outside the government, Barkai stated that even if a local council manages to devise a balanced budget, that community's residents will continue to pay high taxes to compensate for the mistakes (i.e., debts) of the past. His major recommendation to the councils was to help by placing greater emphasis on setting proper priorities for spending.

All well and good, said Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat - and, after him, mayors Arye Azulai of Ashdod and Yitzhak Yaron of Givatayim - however, decisions regarding programmes and services are not usually made by the localities, but are handed to them by the federal authorities.

The best prospects for women these days, Lahat and Yaron agreed, are in volunteering to care for the aged and young. As Yaron said, they can "do tasks without pay that are now being done by salaried workers." Beyond that, Lahat called on women to become the "conscience watchers" of the nation by keeping the public "honest and responsible."

Azulai presented women with a much more positive challenge. He explained that he doesn't know of a single city in Israel with a real plan for making women productive community members and this will never happen without a push from women themselves. Women should try to concentrate their power at the local level, Azulai advised, on changing ways of thinking and not only on planning action that will benefit women.

Lists of accomplishments of women's and family-related activities were presented during the day by Lev and other women representatives of both Arab and Jewish town councils, but there were many complaints voiced as well. Masha Lubelsky, national secretary-general of Na'amat, spoke of drastic slashes in local allocations to volunteer organizations like Na'amat, and appealed to the mayors to restore funding. She also reminded the 100 or so women holding positions in various local councils - elected with the help of Na'amat - that they should bear in mind that they are in

office also to represent women's interests.

A COURSE for women, called "Options in Life Planning," will be given at the Israel Center in Jerusalem this winter for women interested "in changing or enhancing their current life roles."

The course will stress the possibilities of joining the labour force for women who have never worked before or for those who have taken extended maternity leave. Housewives and mothers who have been tied to the home for a decade or more may lack the confidence, tools and motivation to apply for a job.

Volunteer work and higher education will also be considered as viable alternatives. The course will be led by a trained counsellor and social worker, Tamar Zukotai, and is being offered in English and Hebrew every Tuesday evening from 8 p.m. For details call 02-22775 or 02-246206. (L.A.)

Open meeting

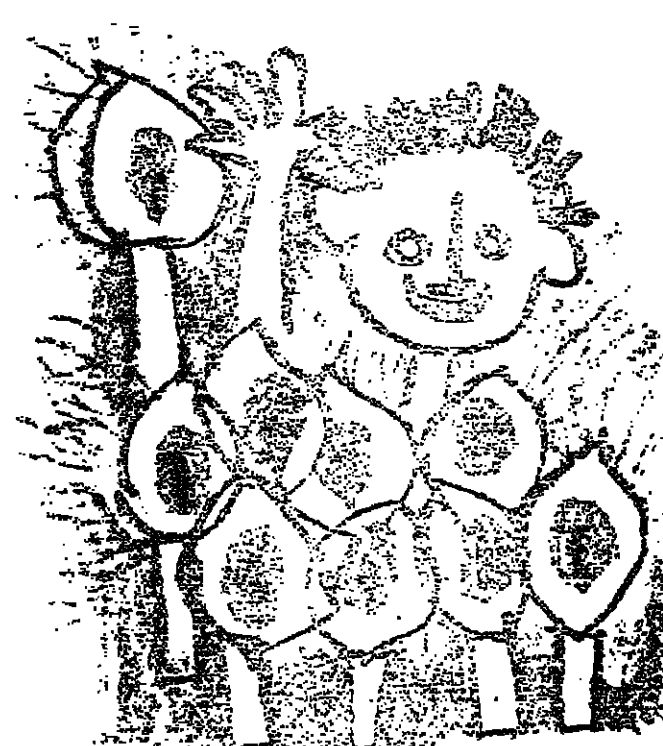
"WHAT ARE the things bothering Jerusalem women?" will be the subject of a general meeting, open to the public, to be held on Sunday Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. at the Zionist Confederation House.

The meeting will be sponsored by the recently-formed Israel Women's Lobby, whose members will be on hand to hear comments and complaints from local women. This "speak out" session, it is hoped, will help the lobby formulate its plan of action.

The Confederation House is located behind the King David Hotel (walk down Emile Botta Street and turn right) on Eliezer Dror Street in Yemin Moshe.

Today is edited by Amy Levinson.

Brighten up their lives this Hanukka



The kindling spirit of Hanukka for Israel's underprivileged children needs your donations to the Jerusalem Post Toy Fund. There are 15,000 youngsters in government institutions and foster homes. A Happy Hanukka for them depends on your contributions.

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Sybil Zimmerman



Author of Women of a Wonder Pot

Deputy trade commissioner reports:

U.S. receives 30% of local industrial exports

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Industrial exports to the U.S., which will reach \$1.5 billion for 1984, constitute 30 per cent of Israel's overall industrial exports, Israel's deputy trade commissioner in the U.S., Motti Ish-Shalom, reported yesterday.

Israel's trade commission there has already forwarded the applications of Israeli manufacturers and exporting companies for participation in 30 of the trade fairs to be held in the U.S. next year, he said.

The firms eager to sell to the American market are in the following fields: biotechnology, safety equipment, housewares, dental equipment, agricultural machinery, medical equipment, automobile spare parts, computer software, packaging materials and systems, electronics, toys and games, printing

and publishing, textiles and fashions, metal goods, jewellery, furniture and foods.

The trade commission, which helps organize Israeli representation at trade fairs, hopes that budget cutting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade will not affect its own budgets, "so that we can go forward in assisting Israeli firms to penetrate the vast American market, especially in view of the unprecedented opportunities to be opened soon by the Free Trade Area agreement."

Ish-Shalom reported that Israeli research and development in the field of genetic engineering has become widely known in American scientific circles. So he sees no reason why Israel should not be prominently represented at all upcoming conferences on genetic engineering.



Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek pays a visit this week to the site of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, going up on Mount Scopus. Gathered around a model of the hotel are (from left to right) project manager Shmuel Finesod, city engineer Amnon Niv, Kollek, and architect David Reznick. (Isaac Harari)

Slowdown in world economy, fall in inflation, seen in 1985

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters). - The world economy will slow down somewhat in 1985 but will continue to make significant progress, economists at the San Francisco-based Bank of America said this week in their latest annual forecast.

However, they said that in the U.S., "the economy definitely is weakening," although any downturn would be mild and a full-fledged recession was not on the horizon.

The bank projected that for the world as a whole, gross domestic product (GDP) - the amount of goods and services produced - would grow in real terms by 3.2 per cent in 1985, compared with 4.4 per cent this year.

In the U.S. GDP would increase 2.4 per cent next year, sharply down from the boom year of 1984 when the nation's economy grew by nearly 7 per cent, it added.

The bage of budget deficits will continue to haunt the industrialized world, the forecasts added, contributing to high interest rates. These rates will discourage investment and result in relatively low growth rates and increased unemployment.

A bright note in the projections is that the global inflation rate is expected to fall to 12.6 per cent compared with 15.4 per cent this year.

Also on the positive side was the bank's assurance that the international debt crisis had eased considerably.

"Although the task is not complete, bank economists predict that

if recovery continues in the industrialized countries and protectionism is held in check, there is every reason to expect that the remaining debt service difficulties can be managed successfully," the bank said.

Regionally, the bank predicted that Asia would continue to outperform the rest of the world in terms of economic growth and price stability.

Western Europe would continue with slow expansion, and Eastern Europe's growth would stay stable, it said.

In Latin America, the outlook was improving, with many countries making intense efforts to adjust their economies in the wake of the foreign debt crises of recent years, the Bank of America said.

In the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war plus limited demand for oil were expected to lower the region's growth rate from 6.4 per cent this year to 5.7 per cent in 1985, the bank said.

The economists predicted a modest recovery for Africa, with strong growth in a few countries balancing the gloomy prospects of drought-afflicted agricultural regions.

TOURING. - East German head of state Erich Honecker spent Tuesday touring Algerian oil and gas fields in the Sahara around Hassi Messaoud and Ghardala, the Algerian news agency APS reports.

Opec looking to adjust price system

GENEVA (Ap). - Opec oil ministers opened their regular year-end meeting yesterday seeking to tinker with a pricing system that many industry analysts believe is in danger of collapsing.

Ahmed Zaki Yamani, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, predicted the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would reach quick agreement to realign the prices of its various grades of crude oil.

The goal, he said, is to achieve a better balance in oil sales among the 13-member countries, whose differ-

ent types of oil are priced according to quality.

But many analysts say that even if the cartel succeeds this week in rejiggering its official price structure - based on \$29 a barrel for Saudi Arabia's light crude - the pressure of low oil demand eventually will force a broad price cut.

"The market in no way supports a \$29 price," said Paul McDonald, senior oil analyst at the London-based investment firm of Shearson-American Express Ltd.

In an opening address to the Opec conference, Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said competitive price cutting by such non-Opec oil producers as Britain and Norway threatened to throw the oil market into "chaos."

"The continued erosion of the price structure, leading to price collapse, would place the huge exploration and development investments in other energy sources in jeopardy and impose severe strains on an international banking system committed to financing these investments," the Indonesian oil minister said.

KIBBUZ

(Continued from Page One)

Klebanov, and Plasson's international sales coordinator Yitzhak Kantor, were among the founders of the factory in the early 1960s, and they remember how they were scoffed at throughout the kibbutz movement for insisting that the future in international marketing.

"They didn't understand that if you want the economy to grow you've got to find bigger markets," said Kantor.

Kantor this week walked through the factory, which sprawls over three large buildings overlooking the fishponds, the flocks of birds floating on or above the water, and the sea.

"All the machinery would be useless to us if we weren't able to run it around the clock, three shifts a day. And to do that means producing in quantities for export. We're going to survive and survive well, because we're organized for it, because of the way our community is set up."

"And," added Kantor, "remember that we have no outside labour."

Asked whether the kibbutz movement's successful industrialists, such

as the Plasson management, could one day provide Israel with industrial managers in the same way as the kibbutz movement has provided officers for the army, Kantor and Klebanov shook their heads sadly.

"There's nothing to prevent somebody talented here from running a factory elsewhere. But our success lies in the way the people who work in this factory identify with it and want it to succeed. That's something that you can't export to the city," said Kantor.

"And while the kibbutz may be an island, it's an island that always attracts people from the city during times of economic crisis," said Klebanov.

Ma'agan Michael will not be accepting many new members in the near future, and the consensus this week seemed to be that budget cuts in new housing are the likely outcome of the negotiations between the secretariat and Plasson. But even such a decision would be considered radical at the kibbutz. According to Klebanov, "housing is development, because it means providing space at the kibbutz for more working hands."

Jewish Medical Law

Avraham Steinberg M.D.

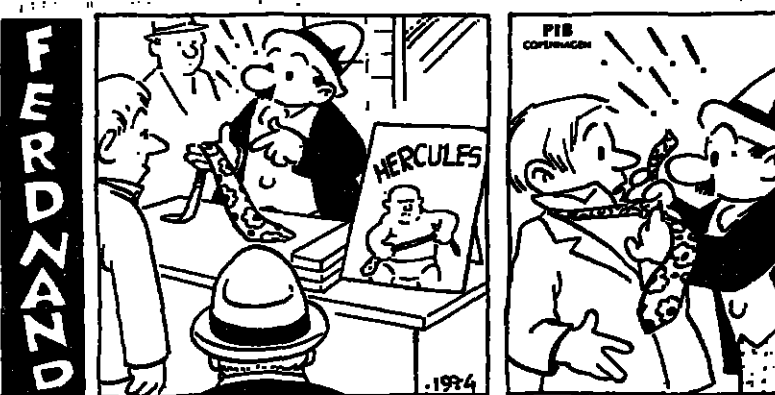
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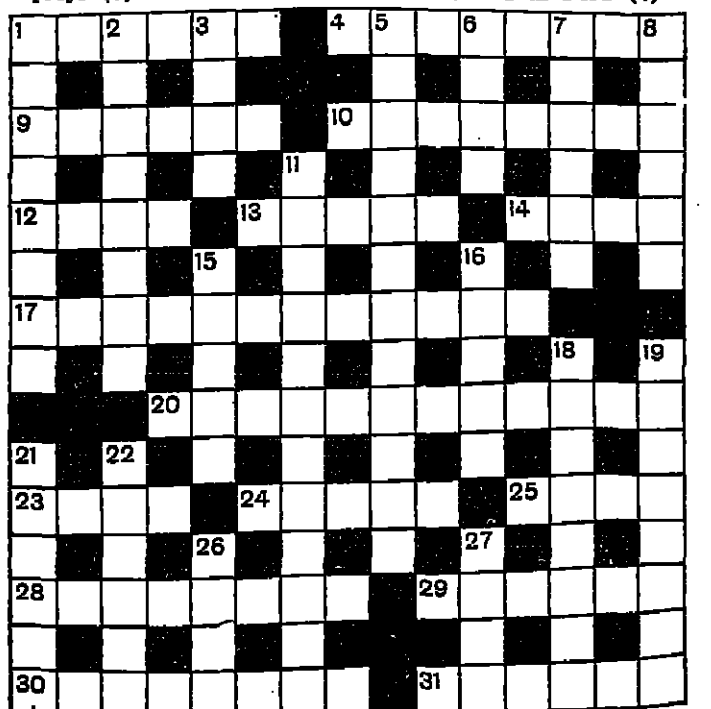
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ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 He would be a drawback to the commanding officer (6)</p> <p>4 Exaggerated what the troublesome boy did (6, 2)</p> <p>9 Pole was in bad health when crucified (6)</p> <p>10 Copper vehicle (5, 3)</p> <p>12 Interior of sewers used for carrying water (4)</p> <p>13 Number giving advice on how to prepare a garden bed (5)</p> <p>14 Van warning of course (4)</p> <p>17 Do without officers or non-coms (7, 5)</p> <p>20 Poor man tries to become someone assuming another character (12)</p> <p>23 Personal admission of swindling Russian art (4)</p> <p>24 \$1 more than 9 in a pen (5)</p> <p>25 Returnable money in India (4)</p> <p>28 This year's car for the inexperienced mannequin (3, 5)</p> <p>29 Herb or Peter? (6)</p> <p>30 Letter written with never a quaver (4, 4)</p> <p>31 Creature which prays and preys (6)</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 What one is held in, and charged with if legally defiant (8)</p> <p>2 Below the outer ring of the target draw the bow for formal occasions (5, 3)</p> <p>3 Part of instrument which naturally gets wet (4)</p> <p>5 Funds essential for floating a company? (6, 6)</p> <p>6 Yes formerly right for all seasons (4)</p> <p>7 He practices on those who are patient (8)</p> <p>8 Copper strongly advised to be thrown out of the party (6)</p> <p>11 Is it made up of soldiers drawn by the rule? (4, 8)</p> <p>15 Crazy sea-soldier in the bay (5)</p> <p>16 All agreed to make amends (2, 3)</p> <p>18 Buy no cards, but buy a drink for the whiskey drinker (5, 3)</p> <p>19 Big waves finally demolish old ships (8)</p> <p>21 Very remarkable message from HQ (6)</p> <p>22 Good win takes nothing out of Harold's father (6)</p> <p>26 Continue being a stupid person (4)</p> <p>27 Mail sorted in Peru (4)</p> |
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Welcome decision

THERE IS one good reason to welcome the decision by the Knesset House Committee on Tuesday, endorsing a proposal by the Alignment's Edna Solodar, to deny MK Meir Kahane the privileged freedom of movement to which he is entitled by the Knesset Members Immunity Law.

Although the decision, which passed by a vote of 12 to 8, is still subject to approval by secret ballot in the plenary next week, it is notable for being the first concrete move by parliament to block the Kach leader's campaign to subvert Israeli democracy. If the plenary does give its assent, the police will no longer be required to grant Kahane any special consideration before it bars his entry into Arab villages whose residents he will urge to take flight from Israel unless they wish to be forcibly expelled.

The question, however, remains open whether this *ad hominem* approach is the best method of coping with the threat of what the attorney-general has aptly termed Kahanism.

One of the distinguishing marks of Kahanism has been contempt for the law. Thus the police are reported to have in their possession *prima facie* evidence of MK Kahane's violation of the law against incitement to terrorism, by publicly applauding the attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem two months ago. For the moment it is unclear what is preventing the attorney-general from asking the Knesset to lift MK Kahane's immunity so that he could stand trial on that charge.

Mr. Zahir may, of course, wish to make certain first that he has an air-tight case against MK Kahane; for a defeat, even on a technicality, would only be a boost for Kahanism. But he may also be examining the possibility that the prosecution of a Knesset member on a charge of incitement to terrorism may be precluded by the Knesset Members Immunity Law.

That law relieves MKs of any legal responsibility for any opinion expressed, or act committed, inside or outside parliament in or for the performance of their duties. In the case of Kahane, drumming up support for racism throughout the country is his very idea of his duty as a parliamentarian.

For that same reason the anti-racism bill now being readied in the Justice Ministry will not apply to MK Kahane personally. He will still remain free to disseminate his views, at least until the next election. Unless, that is, the present Knesset amends the Immunity Law by removing its protection for members' violations of the racism law.

Ideally, however, the Knesset should rethink the entire structure of its immunity mechanism.

The grossly inflated immunities conferred by the House upon itself have no equivalent in any other democratic legislature. Three decades ago there might have been some justified fear of politically-motivated harassment of Knesset members by the government. Today the only real danger is that Knesset members such as Meir Kahane will seek to undermine the polity from behind the shelter of their immunity.

What needs to be done, therefore, is not to deprive MK Kahane of the enjoyment of this or that specific immunity, but to limit Knesset members' immunity generally to the strict performance of their duties within parliament, where racist remarks may be squelched by the Speaker.

Dubious motives

A DELEGATION of West Germany's Green Party has embarked on a Middle Eastern tour that will take it to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

The ostensible purpose of the tour is to contribute to the relaxation of tensions in the area, not least between Arabs and Israelis. There are some indications, however, that a more substantial motive is to accumulate material that would "expose" Israel's policy of "terror" against the Arabs. The Greens have never cared very much for Israel, or for Zionism, and they have never bothered to hide the fact.

Their sympathies are given, instead, to the PLO. But this has not prevented the government from granting the delegation entry into Israel.

An exception has been made in the case of one delegation member, Brigitte Heinrich, a deputy in the European Parliament, who spent a term in German jail for terrorism - and is believed in Jerusalem to have actively consorted with the PLO.

This has drawn from the Greens a comment to the effect that the decision proves Israel not to be a democracy. But that still leaves the delegation free to visit Syria, well-known for its highly developed democratic system.

READERS LETTERS

SELF-PUNISHING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - After watching Ram Eron's programme *This is the Time* when he interviewed a pair of bereaved parents, and reading Philip Gillon's commentary (Magazine, December 7) I, as a bereaved parent, feel that I must put this problem in a more balanced perspective.

From our personal experience and that of our friends who have suffered similarly, I cannot accept statements or generalizations that Israeli society is devoid of feelings towards the bereaved families, or ignores their problems.

Certainly there are cases of people lacking the inner strength to withstand the agony of the terrible loss of a son, but this is not because they are shunned by society. There are many in Israel who are unable to face the harsh reality of our life, and they are not necessarily the bereaved.

I am not in a position to measure, numerically, the cases of those who lost their jobs or had to move their

homes because of the indifference of their employers and neighbours. Perhaps a better picture could be obtained from the Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Defence, or from Yad Labanaim, (the association of bereaved families) who both, to my knowledge, take great interest and go to great lengths to solve problems and alleviate hardships.

To accuse our society in such a general way, without studying facts and cases is both superficial and undignified. Is it not symptomatic of the prevailing tendency these days of self-degradation, which is the result of the low morale we have reached?

I agree with Philip Gillon that perhaps we need a social psychologist, not to study the indifference of society to the bereaved, but rather to comprehend our present state of mind which uses such pseudo manifestations as a justification for self punishment.

DORIS V. MOUSHINE
Rehovot.

Garbage and goodies

By MICHAEL EILAN

TEL AVIV went broke in a spectacular way. The garbage piled up and everybody visiting the country's busiest city could smell it. Something obviously had to be done about the situation, so the government gave Tel Aviv money in return for promises to behave better in the future.

Beersheba, Ramle, Beit Shemesh and many other towns and local authorities have been through the same routine many times, and nobody can confidently predict that it will ever stop.

The country's system of local government is falling apart. Only a few of Israel's cities, towns and local councils can face the next few months - not to speak of next year - with any degree of equanimity.

There are two main reasons for the breakdown: the inflation of the past few years with the concomitant changes in the old patterns of economic behaviour and the basic flaws in our local government structure.

With inflation it became difficult to predict either revenue from rates and government subsidies or expenditure on salaries or services. And then money from central government started arriving late.

The accountants in Jerusalem tried to save through inflation by sending promised government funds long after the scheduled date, which meant that they were worth far less. But the local authorities had to pay salaries on the first or 15th of the month. So they borrowed from banks, which were only too happy to advance money to institutions they knew had a godfather - the Interior Ministry and the government, which could order up any amount of banknotes it wanted from the Bank of Israel.

So local government by and large went into hock. There were a few exceptions, Jerusalem being the most notable. But most of the forms of government which decide the ways in which we actually live - whether our garbage is collected or whether that skyscraper is built opposite our front door - were enmeshed into a system of debt they could never really escape. The banks were financing everything from salaries to paperclips.

A RECENT suggestion by Uzi Wexler, treasurer of the still-solvent

Jerusalem municipality, calls for alleviating the immediate crisis by forbidding local authorities to take loans from banks: allowing them working capital to the extent of 5 per cent of their annual budgets and insuring that government money is paid on time.

Implementing these suggestions would mean a little more in immediate costs to central government, but it would save the tremendous cost of rescue operations when workers go on strike because their salaries have not been paid on time.

By legally forbidding local authorities to take sizable loans from banks, central government could immediately stop the situation whereby a sizable portion of the national resources which should be devoted to local government is instead used to subsidize the banking system through the tremendously high interest rates that local authorities pay for their debts.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, trying to find a scapegoat for his troubles, said that the city started its slide into debt when the local business tax was cancelled (all over the country), depriving the city of a sizable tax revenue.

At one time, before VAT was raised from 12 to 15 per cent, there was a suggestion that the municipalities be given this extra 3 per cent to finance the shortfall caused by the cancellation of local business taxes. But nothing was ever done about it, and VAT was raised anyway to cover other shortfalls.

Wexler's proposal could, possibly, address the immediate problem. But the main question is why several local authorities such as Arad under Avraham Shohat, Jerusalem under Teddy Kollek, and even Herzliya under the newly elected Eli Landau (whatever one thinks of his style) are not in trouble, while other local authorities are keeling over.

Lahat may have been extravagant, wasteful, and a bad administrator, but it is clear that he is right on one count. Local authorities, functioning as they are now, need an extra tax base. The question is whether mayors and chairmen of local authorities with a proved record of incompetence should be given the tools to raise more money to extricate themselves from their current

mess. The privilege of being able to impose more taxes on one's own constituents could be abused or the money wasted.

SEEMINGLY, one needs exceptional men or women to run local authorities that do no more than function normally. The system they have to cope with is a relic of the British Mandate which, in the words of Teddy Kollek, was constructed so that the English bosses could keep an eye on the natives' affairs.

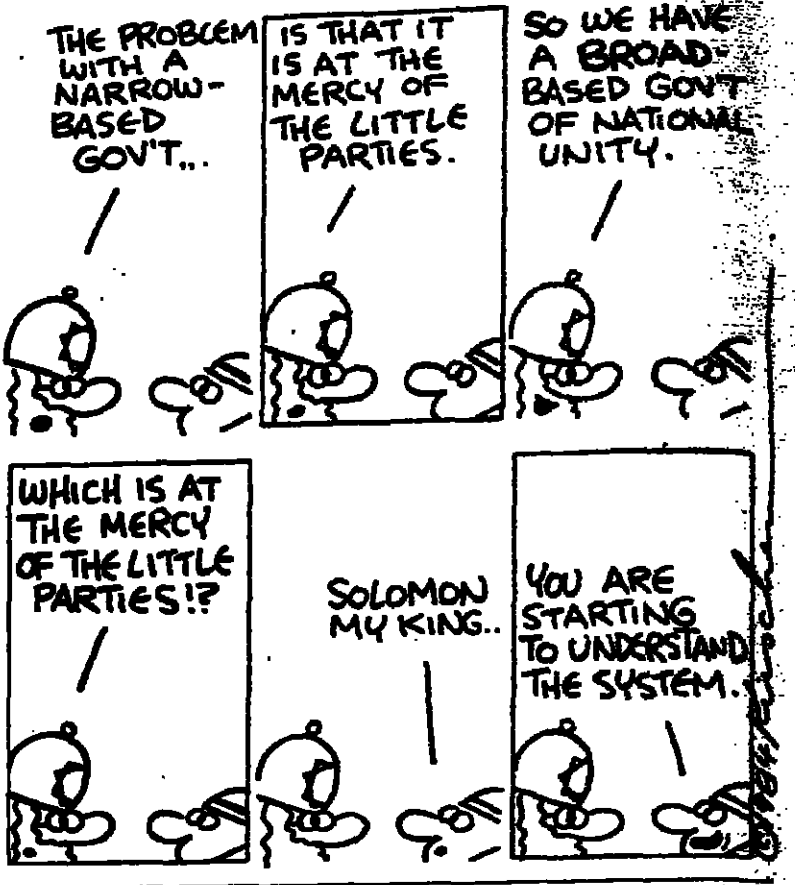
The Interior Ministry is supposed to supervise the local authorities and see that the elected mayors or chairmen do not overstep their authority. In some cases over the last few years - Kiryat Shmona and Dimona are examples - the ministry went so far as to fire the elected representatives and substitute in their stead an appointed local council. In these cases the ministry did its job and stepped in when necessary. It has not, however, managed to stop the fiscal collapse of the system it is supposed to oversee.

The local authorities, for their part, have got used to a system under which they can spend as much as they like because the ministry, and behind it the government, will always bail them out. The elected leaders and senior officials in these municipalities, encouraged to indulge in fiscal irresponsibility by the lack of any kind of penalty for overstepping budgets, also play the part of feckless natives towards the responsible daddy in central government.

Standing in line to discover the error in a water bill, one is often struck by the extreme inefficiency of municipal workers. Before cursing them, one should take a look at their salary slips. A woman university graduate working in a reasonably responsible municipal position takes home not much more than \$250. One cannot really expect good work for this kind of money.

The Jerusalem municipality has been lobbying for the past few months to start implementing the recommendations of the Sanbar Committee on local government, starting in Jerusalem on an experimental basis for a few years. The committee, which filed its recom-

Dry Bones



mendations five years ago, called for granting local authorities far more powers, including the power to raise taxes.

Jerusalem may or may not get this special status, but the basic problem is that only a handful of local authorities and municipalities have demonstrated the kind of responsibility that justifies the granting of such powers.

There seems to be a catch here. Only those local authorities which can cope in any case could be reasonably expected to assume the powers which they don't really need to continue functioning, while those authorities which have demonstrated that they cannot cope with the situation need the extra powers it would be a folly to give them, considering their track record.

IN THEIR VOTING for the Knesset over the past decade, Israelis have shown that economic performance is not, to say the least, their chief criterion in choosing a candidate or party. The same is true, though to a slightly lesser extent, in voting for local authorities. One cannot, therefore, expect the voters to keep their elected leaders of local government in line by denying them

continued tenure in office if they do not balance their books.

THE ONLY APPARENT way out of this is a gradual carrot and stick approach under which local authorities which perform adequately will be given more powers, with stiff statutory penalties imposed on those who abuse these powers.

The voters, the people who need local government and usually do not recognize its importance until the garbage starts piling up, must be enabled to feel the difference between a city or town that functions on its own and one that needs the crutch of central government. And the nature of the Israeli voter being what it is, there must be some discernible goodies to reward both the local authority and, especially, the citizens it serves for good performance.

These goodies will be hard to come by in times of economic austerity, but central government must realize that the cost of allowing the country's local authorities to function independently will be far less in the long run than the current cost of repeated bail-outs by the Treasury.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

AT THE CROSSROADS

By JACQUES TORCZYNER

THE CREATION of the government of national unity has shown that both major political parties - the Likud and the Labour Alignment - have about the same strength in the country. This has made relations between the Liberal Party and Herut within the Likud more tense and demands immediate attention.

When Gahal was created, the proportional strength given to the two founding parties was based on the realities of that time and was supposed to form its permanent representation. As long as a close relationship existed between Herut leader Menachem Begin and Liberal leader Simcha Ehrlich, the balance of power in the Likud did not change.

But it was quite different after the untimely death of Ehrlich and the retirement of Begin. Notwithstanding a written commitment by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the list

agreed upon for the recent July election to the Knesset saw a considerable reduction of the Liberal Party's importance within the Likud and its electorate.

They forgot that it was the presence of the former General Zionists in the first Likud list that allowed them to assume power in 1977. They acted as if the Liberals did not contribute at all to the strength of the Likud and might, in fact, even be a liability.

In the World Zionist Organization the picture is quite different. In many parts of the free world, the Herut Party is a minority party out-

side of the mainstream of Jewish life. Even in the heyday of the Begin government, they were not able to win many new permanent adherents, and most of the "non-Zionist" fund-raisers remained loyal to the Labour Alignment, even giving great financial aid during the last electoral campaign while claiming to be "non-political."

AT THE PRESENT TIME, there is no united Likud in the WZO and it is doubtful if a merger in Israel would be followed by one in the Diaspora. Basically, there are fundamental differences between the two parties. The Liberals believe in real freedom of religion, free enterprise and a free economy. Herut is a populist party much closer to the extreme doctrinaire religious forces.

With the more identifiable differences between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, the Liberals have more supporters in the former and the Herut in the latter. While the Liberals are the heirs of the General Zionists (B) and the political Zionists of yesterday, they have in their ranks many more supporters of a more flexible foreign policy than of a Greater Israel.

This tension between the two parties can only be resolved in one of three ways: Firstly, the complete

merger of the two-in-one Likud party; secondly, a re-negotiation of the original Gahal agreement, or thirdly, complete separation of the two parties.

In a complete merger, the Liberals will disappear. The main portfolios in the government are even now held by Herut, with the exception of the Finance Ministry - a real hot potato which has destroyed four ministers in the last seven years.

The young Herut leaders are more charismatic and more prominent in the public eye, and Israel's history has demonstrated that all those who left their smaller parties to join a larger one faded away and were completely absorbed: the Liberals who survive in the next Knesset list will disappear.

In the last Knesset, the Liberals had 18 out of 48 Likud seats. They now have 13 out of 41. This means that of the seven seats lost by the Likud in the last election, five were lost by the Liberals. Any new formula negotiated now will be based on this already reduced representation and can only lead to further concessions.

To this, one must add that on the main policy issues, a break will have to come in the future in view of the basic differences between the two parties.

IF THE LIBERALS leave the Likud now, they can, with the Labour Alignment, Shinui and the three Yahad Knesset Members, form a government with a stable majority without having to submit to the unreasonable demands of the religious parties.

It will give the country a real chance at economic recovery. The present government of national unity is more a small Knesset than a government of action exerting real executive power.

The essential condition for such a split of the Likud must be the determination of a united Liberal party leadership to rebuild the party, stop internecine fights and establish a real centre party that Israel needs so badly.

What is better - to melt and fade away in a united Likud or to remain an independent party? What is so bad about again being a party of seven members in a future Knesset, when parties with only three have exerted such an influence on even the formation of the present government of national unity?

It can be done with a united leadership that will draw upon the thousands who believe in these ideals.

World Jewry in its overwhelming majority believes in these principles and will support those who hold aloft and implement them. Before surrendering or amalgamating, this experience is worth a try.

The writer is president of the World Union of General Zionists.

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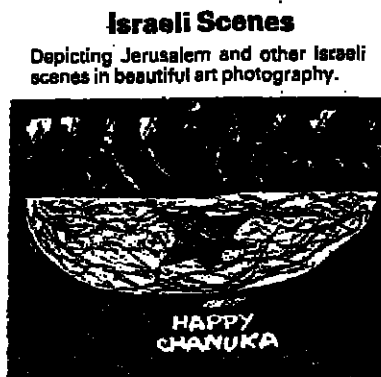
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